

Study of Matthew

Matthew 5:6

May 15, 2022

DISCUSSION QUESTION: What is the evidence that you are thirsty or hungry? How do you know your children are thirsty or hungry? How do you know that you hunger and thirst after righteousness?

TODAY: Matthew 5:6 *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled."* [KJV]

To be blessed is to be fortunate or prosperous; it is to be characterized by the quality of God. It is to be fully satisfied, not based on our circumstances but due to Christ indwelling presence. The indwelling Christ, through the Holy Spirit, brings a fundamental satisfaction to one's life and it is called, BLESSED!

We are to get in the position of the blessed ones. This is the necessary position...not the self-sufficient position of I can handle this on my own and I can do this by myself but the necessary position of I'm lacking spiritually, and I need God's help.

Some would say that each beatitude is like a staircase...one step takes you to the next. After we get in position of pour in spirit we move to, mourning over our sin, then to being meek.

The next step is: To Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness

- Righteousness speaks of God's exercise of justice in the earth, His intervention, or HIS saving gift of justification (making us right)

When reading thru Matthew we find that he is concerned with right conduct, with living the way God requires. Eager to live according to those requirements.

John 4:34 "Jesus said to them, 'My food is to do the will of him who sent me and to accomplish his work.'"

When we are made alive by the Holy Spirit we begin to hunger and thirst after God.

- We hunger/thirst for justification and regeneration (salvation)
- We hunger/thirst for a change in nature, (our actions and desires in every area of life so we will be a lover of that which is good)
- We hunger/thirst for sanctification
- We hunger/thirst for a change in our fellow man
- We hunger/thirst for a change in the world around you.
- **What do we really hunger and thirst for in all of these areas? (Righteousness!)**

But even more it is a reminder of Jesus words to satan, we live by every word that proceeds out of the mouth of God. Out of the mouth of righteousness; it is a matter of priorities!

3 things about the hunger and thirst:

1. Ensures Health

In the physical body, hunger and thirst are regulated by a structure in the brain called the hypothalamus.

So in the spiritual...when we are dead in our sins, when we walk in sin, our spiritual mind is not focused on the right food. But when we get the mind of Christ!

Only an appetite for righteousness will keep us spiritually alive.

3 John 2 *"Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayest prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth."* [KJV]

2. Expressions of Desire or Need

Nobody teaches a newborn baby how to be hungry. They don't need mentoring on this—where there's life, there's hunger.

1 Peter 2:2-3 *"As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby: 3 If so be ye have tasted that the Lord is gracious."* [KJV]

Go to the graveyard today and see if any grave is crying for food. NO! The dead do not cry for that which sustains but the living is constantly looking for bread and water.

3. Reveal the Expending of Received Energy

In the Greek, the tense of the words hunger & thirst would imply "the hungering or the thirsting ones"

In the natural when we eat a great meal we may even say, I can't eat anymore, yet in a little while we find ourselves wanting to be satisfied again with another meal.

It is also true in the spiritual...it is not that we have lost righteousness but that we get filled, expend that energy and then go back to be filled again!

The fuel of the Kingdom is found in Romans 14:17 *"For the kingdom of God is not meat and drink; but righteousness, and peace, and joy in the Holy Ghost."* [KJV]

I'm still righteous, I just want more of HIS righteousness until I become like HIM!

4. Endless Hunger brings a Continual Filling

Matthew 5:6 *"Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled (they shall be satisfied, NASU)."* [KJV]

Where there is a constant hunger and thirst and there is a constant filling or satisfaction.