SATISFACTION GUARANTEED #5

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
Matt. 5:6

For the last few weeks we have been dealing with the “Beatitudes” here in Matt. 5. Have you noticed how that all of these Beatitudes point to man’s greatest need? How that they all build on one another? We have looked at:
“Blessed are the...

- Poor – see themselves bankrupt before God
- Who mourn – truly repentant for their sin
- Meek – surrendered to Christ’s total authority

And this morning, Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

You know the advertising industry has made billions of dollars from making you and me desire things that we really don’t need. God through the Holy Spirit and His Word wants to create in you a desire for your greatest need and that need is righteousness. Know this, you can’t live without it.

I want to assure you that if you will desire it, if you will go after it, you will be filled. You will find Satisfaction Guaranteed.

Now before we go on, what does it mean to hunger and thirst after righteousness? You might think it is something you do, but righteousness in the Bible is wrapped up in a person and that person is Jesus Christ. Listen to Paul in I Cor. 1:30 – But of Him you are in Christ Jesus, who became for us wisdom from God – and righteousness and sanctification and redemption

- Jesus is our righteousness, and when we “hunger and thirst after righteousness” we are hungering and thirsting after Jesus. Now get this because if you don’t you won’t get the rest of the message.
- Jesus Christ is our righteousness.
- Man’s hunger can be filled by only Jesus. Man’s greatest need can be found in a right relationship with Jesus Christ.
- Has that need been filled in you this morning?
- Christ is the righteousness of God to which we are to hunger after.
- So then, how are we to hunger and thirst for Jesus Christ?

1. WE ARE TO DESIRE JESUS PREEMINENTLY

- That is, we should desire Him above all others.
- Remember our opening text of this series? It was Matt. 6:33. Jesus talked about food, fashion, fitness, and He said, “such do the gentiles seek” but we are to “seek first His righteousness and then these things will be added unto you”.
- “Jesus Christ is heaven’s bread for man’s deepest hunger.” (Adrian Rogers)
- “Thou hast made us for thyself and our hearts are restless until they find their rest in thee.” (St. Augustine)
- Jesus Christ will not work in second place in our lives.
- Problem with most folks is they don’t want to seek righteousness. They want to seek blessedness. Problem with that is they never find happiness or satisfaction.
- Blessedness is the by-product of seeking Jesus.
- ILLUSTR: When sick, a good doctor treats the cause not the symptom. Lack of joy, satisfaction, and happiness is a symptom, not a cause. Jesus is the Alpha & Omega (A-Z).

2. WE ARE TO DESIRE JESUS PASSIONATELY

- What Christ is talking about in our text is hunger/thirst.
• It is a picture of a man who is staring. He doesn’t want a little piece of chicken; he wants the whole chicken. He doesn’t want a drop of water; he wants a pitcher of water. He is hungry and thirsty.
• What are the marks of a man who is hungry, who is thirsty?

A. He is on a deliberate quest for food
   • Jesus isn’t talking about a man who just has an appetite. He is speaking of a man who is bankrupt, broken. He is starving and parched.
   • What are the marks of this kind of hunger? Well if you were starving, would you be interested in how good you looked or what the score is for the sport of the day?
   • When someone is truly hungry, he is interested in one thing and that is getting “filled”. He is interested in food and water. He is deliberate in his quest for it.
   • Many folks sit in church Sunday after Sunday with their mind 1,000 miles away and you know why? They aren’t hungry.
   • A man who is on a deliberate quest for food sets his face toward it and he then finds it.

B. He is on a determined search for food
   • That is, he is going to get fed, and he is going to get some water.
   • I have seen folks come in to God’s house and their body language just says, “I am here. Now let’s see if this preacher can teach me anything”
   • So then what happens is their minds begin a mental argument. The “Yah, buts” start happening.
   • You know what? These folks aren’t hungry; they are not being deliberate; they are not being determined.
   • Could you imagine a hungry man saying, “Well if anybody wants to feed me, they can” or “I don’t like this or that. Give me something else to eat.”
   • No friend. A hungry man is grateful just to find food.
   • Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.
   • ILLUS: little girl, 10:30pm – “Mama, Can I have some water?” Mama gets her some. 11pm – “Mama, Can I have some water?” Mama gets her some. 11:30pm – Mama, Can I have some water?” Mama says, “You have had enough, and if you ask one more time, I am coming in and spanking you. Time to go to sleep.” 15 minutes later, little girl says, “Mama when you come in to spank me, would you bring me a glass of water?”
   • See a determined man is willing to pay a price.
   • A hungry man is 1) on a deliberate search, and 2) on a determined search. Notice also...

C. He is on a desperate search for food
   • Many folks come to church and all they can do is criticize. When folks say something bad about me, all I can think is – Thank God they don’t know any more.
   • You know if you are looking for something to criticize, you can find it anywhere.
   • Someone who comes to find fault hasn’t come to find Jesus.
   • A desperate man lays aside his pride, his criticism, and he just wants to eat.
   • Are you hungry this morning?
   • ILLUS: lady told a pastor, “I didn’t like your message.” Pastor said, “Why not?” “Well, it wasn’t elegant enough. In the course of your message, you said the word pants. You should never say pants; you should say trousers.” Pastor said, “I’ll try to remember that. What did you think about the rest of the sermon?” The lady said, “Quite frankly, I didn’t get anything else from your message.” Pastor said, “If I hadn’t said pants, you wouldn’t have gotten anything from the message.”
Have you narrowed your search down to just one, Jesus? Why aren’t people hungry? 1) Could be sick or 2) could already be full. Proverbs 27:7
We are to desire God 1) preeminently, and 2) passionately. Notice also...

3. WE ARE TO ENJOY JESUS PERPETUALLY
   • That is continually
   • I am going to say something that may shock some of you.
   • I don’t know how much of God you have, but I do know you got all you want.
   • Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.

Are you hungry? What are you searching for? May I say, your search won’t be satisfied in a “what” but rather in “whom”. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for JESUS.

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