

Beautiful Attitudes
The Christian Character
“The Hungry and Thirsty”
Matthew 5:6

Introduction - Food and water are necessities, not luxuries. This was especially true in Palestine in Jesus' day. Both food and water were used carefully and never wasted. The owning of a well and the cultivating of a field were matters of life and death. So, when Jesus linked together hunger and thirst and righteousness, He was telling the people that righteousness is not a luxury, it is a necessity. Our physical life depends upon food and water; our spiritual life depends upon righteousness.

What are you hungry for? What are you thirsty for? Remember Christian living in the Kingdom of Heaven is to be different from the non Christian. The non Christian is hungry for *pleasure, possessions, power and popularity*. But Jesus says' *“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness...”* They shall be filled! To be hungry for holiness brings happiness.

Many today are empty because they are feeding on the wrong things. Only righteousness brings true happiness.

I. How Does This Beatitude Fit In With the Others?

- Study text vv. 3-6.

II. What Does It Mean To Hunger and Thirst?

It speaks of a very *intense hunger*. Illustration - Used of Jesus fasting 40 days in the wilderness. The words *hunger* and *thirst* mean to suffer *deep hunger* and *intense thirst*. It's in the continuous action, so it's *hungering* and *thirsting*.

Illustration - The people that Jesus spoke to at that place and time - knew hunger and thirst! Contrast with us!

It's a Spiritual Hunger and a Spiritual Thirst!

III. What Are We to Hunger and Thirst For? vs. 6

Righteousness: to be right with God.

What is righteousness?

- It's not the righteousness of the Scribes or Pharisees. See Matt. 5:20.

What kind of righteousness is Jesus talking about?

1. Imputed Righteousness.

- a. Justification - declaring me righteous
- b. Positional - “in Christ” or “me in Christ”
- c. Saved from sins - penalty
- d. I have been saved.
- e. All Christians
- d. Doesn’t change.

2. Imparted Righteous

- a. Sanctification- making me righteous
- b. Progressive - “Christ in me”
- c. Saved from sins - Power
- d. I am being saved.
- e. Not all Christians the same
- f. Does change

We are to hunger and thirst for both. An *Imputed Righteous* and an *Imparted Righteous*! So it’s right with God and man.

“Jesus means those who desire above all things to be entirely conformed to the mind of God. They long not so much to be rich, wealthy or leaned, as to be holy.” - J.C. Ryle

It’s hungering and thirsting for God Himself. To be holy as God is holy!

Illustration - Moses - “I want to see your glory.”

David - Ps. 42:1-2, *As the hart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee, O God. My soul after thee, O God. My soul thirsteth for God, for the living God: when shall I come and appear before God?*

Ps. 63:1, *O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee; my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is...*

Paul - after three visions of Jesus!

- Acts 9, Damascus road.
- Acts 18, In Corinth.
- 2 Cor. 12, third heaven

After 30 years, he said, *“that I might know him,”* Phil. 3. *Beware* of those who claim to have arrived at a place of spiritual perfection. *Beware* of things that dull your hunger for God and righteousness.

If you hunger and thirst you will:

1. Pray.
2. Feed on God’s word.
3. Fellowship.

IV. What Is The Result of Hungering and Thirsting After Righteousness? vs. 6

1. “They.” It’s they only.
2. “Shall.” Not *might*.
3. “Be Filled.” It’s satisfied.

There’s only one way. Why you were made for God!

Ps. 23:1, “I shall not want!”

John 4, Jesus told the woman at the well! If you will thirst again. But, if you.....never!

It’s a paradox, filled yet hungry.

We taste Thee, O Thou living Bread, We drink Thee, the Fountainhead, And long to feast upon Thee still And thirst our souls from Thee to fill.

Ps. 107:9, “*He satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness.*”

Contrast two young men in the New Testament:

1. Rich young ruler.
2. The Prodigal son.

Jesus said John 4, “If you only knew the gift of God and who...”

Only Jesus can:

- Save
- Sanctify
- Satisfy

Are you hungry? Are you thirsty?