

Crossroads Baptist Church
February 28 2007 6:30
Matthew 5: 6
Beatitudes: The Pursuit of Happiness #4

“Can You Be Happy and Hungry?”

Three grammatical notes help in the interpretation of this Beatitude.

1. Present tense. Hungering and thirsting represent continual, ongoing longings.

2. Definite article. The object of the hunger and thirst is *the* righteousness of Jesus that begins as a position by faith and continues as a practice.

3. Passive verb. The verb “filled” is in the *passive* voice—the filling comes from God.

I. Man has an inner search for satisfaction.

We long for something more than what we have.

Hosea 2:3 “Lest I strip her naked, and set her as in the day that she was born, and make her as a wilderness, and set her like a dry land, and slay her with thirst.”

II. Man will turn to substitutes.

Jeremiah 2:13 “My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water.”

III. Man will encounter sadness.

The woman at the well asked about water where she would never thirst again.

She had never experienced that type of life.

IV. Only Jesus can give the sweetness of salvation.

God sent His son to a parched hill and after six hours cried out, “I thirst.” But He was thirsty so we could be filled.

Isaiah 55:1 “Come, all you who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Come, buy wine and milk without money and without cost.”

John 4:13-14 “Jesus answered, “Everyone who drinks this water will get thirsty again. But no one who drinks the water I give will ever be thirsty again. The water I give is like a flowing fountain that gives eternal life.”

V. Jesus satisfies with the sweet taste of sanctification.

Psalms 34:8 “O taste and see that the Lord is good.”

He is hungering and thirsting for righteousness and he finds it in Jesus.

VI. Believers should seek the face of God for Him.

Ps. 42:1. As the hart panteth (craving water; audible thirsting) after the water brooks (stream-bed, flowing water that never dries up), so panteth my soul after thee (Ps. 63:8, 143:6). O God.

My soul thirsteth (Ex. 17:3; Ps. 69:21) for God, for the living God (Ps. 42:8, 84:2): when shall I come and appear before God (Gen. 32:30; see the face of God)?

This is not a casual desire or a weak passion. This is not a temporary yearning that goes away. Using the two most common human longings of the body, he speaks to us about the continual and profound desire for this in our spiritual life.

Psm. 63:1-2. 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;
2. To see thy power and thy glory, so [as] I have seen thee in the sanctuary.

Jesus will fill those who *seek*. Revival comes when God’s people *seek His face* (2 Chr. 7:14; Ez. 7:10, 8:21; Hos. 10:12). It is not seeking His hand but His face. It is not wanting His help but His heart (Ps. 27:4-8-9; Prov. 8:17; S.S. 3:1-2; Col. 3:1). Seeking His face is to seek Him alone (Mt. 13:45).

In his early years A. B. Simpson sought experiences and until he discovered, “Once it was the blessing, now it is the Lord.”

Another hymn writer said, “Once earthly joy I craved, sought peace and rest; Now Thee alone I seek, give what is best; This all my prayer shall be; more love O Christ, to Thee, More love to Thee! More love to Thee!”

Is. 44:3 [NIV]. For I will pour water on the thirsty land, and streams on the dry ground; I will pour out my Spirit on your offspring, and my blessing on your descendants.

Jn. 7:37-38 [NIV]. On the last and greatest day of the Feast, Jesus stood and said in a loud voice, "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink.

38. Whoever believes in me, as the Scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him."

Jesus will fill those with *saturation*. D. L. Moody experienced God's filling after a period of intense thirst. He related, "I was crying all the time that God would fill me with His Spirit. Well, one day, in the city of New York—ah, what a day!—I cannot describe it, I seldom refer to it, it is almost too sacred an experience to name—Paul had an experience of which he never spoke for fourteen years—I can only say God revealed Himself to me, and I had such an experience of His love that I had to ask Him to stay His hand. I went to preaching again. The sermons were not different; I did not present any new truths; and yet hundreds were converted. I would not now be placed back where I was before that blessed experience if you should give me all the world; it would be as the small dust of the balance."

Like the woman at the well I was seeking,
For things that could not satisfy;
And then I heard my Savior speaking;
"Draw from My well that never shall run dry".

Fill my cup Lord, I lift it up Lord Come and quench this thirsting of my soul. Bread of Heaven feed me till I want no more; Fill my cup, fill it up and make me whole.

There a millions in this world who are craving,
The pleasure earthly things afford;
But none can match the wondrous treasure;
That I find in Jesus Christ my Lord.

So, brother, if the things this world gave you,
Leave hungers that won't pass away;
My blessed Lord will come and save you;
If you kneel to Him and humbly pray.

Paul spoke of this intense pursuit in Philippians 3:8-9. He is totally and completely satisfied with the positional righteousness which he had been given. But look at verses 12-14. He was still pressing toward a goal.

One day we will reach and obtain that goal of perfected righteousness, but until that day arrives, we should continue to pursue practical righteousness.

I am totally satisfied with my justification.
I am not satisfied with my sanctification.

I am hungering and thirsting for more of God's rightness in my life.