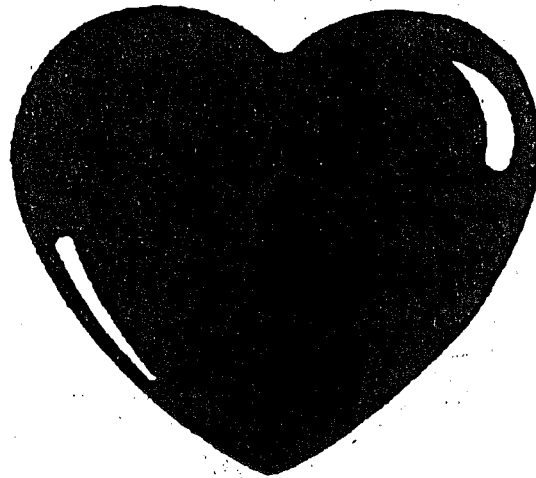


HUNGRY FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS

(How Our Spiritual Appetite Determines Our Likeness To Jesus)
Matthew 5:6



“THEY SHALL BE FILLED”

- ◆ With A Clear Conscience
- ◆ With A Close Fellowship
- ◆ With A Constant Joy

“Blessed Are They Which Do Hunger And Thirst After Righteousness, For They Shall Be Filled” (Matthew 5:6)

Bill Kirk

“MATTERS OF THE HEART”

(Message #4)

Text: Matthew 5:1-12

Subject: (Verse 6) “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled”.

Introduction

1. Jesus makes an offer to us all in Matthew 5:1-12,
2. It is an offer to live “The Blessed Life”.
3. These 8 choices we can chose to make that bring great reward.
4. 8 causes that bring 8 effects. (Or blessings)

Question: What are the choices?

Answer: 8 decisions that are destiny determiners.
8 opportunities to cooperate with God:

- #1. “Blessed are the poor in spirit”
- #2. “Blessed are they that mourn”
- #3. “Blessed are the meek”
- #4. “Blessed are the hungry and thirsty”
- #5. “Blessed are the merciful”
- #6. “Blessed are the pure in heart”
- #7. “Blessed are the peacemakers”
- #8. “Blessed are the persecuted”

Question: What does it mean to be “Blessed”?

Answer: The Greek word for “Blessed” is (MAKARIOS) which means:

- ◆ To possess a spiritual joy that exists regardless of conditions around you (and),
- ◆ To possess an inward contentment that will carry you through pain, loss, sorrow or grief of any kind.

Question: How many of you want to be “blessed” with a healthy dose of spiritual life that will enable you to enjoy your Christian life? (It’s God’s will for you)

- ◆ **In Week #1:** “Blessed are the poor in spirit (why?) for theirs is the kingdom of heaven”

(Which Means)

1. To be consciously aware of our spiritual poverty.
2. To admit our own spiritual deficiencies.
3. To see our need of the grace of God.

Question: Why are the “Poor in spirit” blessed?

Answer: Because the “Poor in spirit” will inherit God’s grace allowing them to live:

- ◆ With **Humility** (which protects us from self-destruction and self pre-occupation).
- ◆ With **Submission** (which saves us from destructive anger when unfulfilled expectations come our way).
- ◆ With **Contentment** (which spares us from envy and jealousy allowing us to enjoy what we have).
- ◆ With **Gratitude** (which keeps us from a murmuring and complaining spirit).

Fact: To the degree my heart is emptied of self (poor in spirit) to that degree Jesus will reign and to that degree of His Lordship will be my happiness and joy.

◆ **In Week #2:** “Blessed are they that mourn (why?) for they shall be comforted”

(To “Spiritually Mourn” Means:)

#1. To be broken hearted over personal sin.

#2. To respond to God with Godly sorrow after seeing that I am “Poor in spirit”

Question: Why should we mourn over personal sin?

Answer: Because to the degree that we mourn, to that same degree we shall be comforted (or be forgiven and delivered from that sin)

◆ **In Week #3:** “Blessed are the meek (why?) for they shall inherit the earth” (Which Means)

- ◆ The degree of my humility will be the degree of my ability to inherit the earth (or enjoy a healthy Christian life and spirit while here on earth).
- ◆ Meekness will allow me to bear injury, to forgive injury, and to overcome injury.
- ◆ And this allows me to inherit the earth with an undamaged spirit and attitude (that is free from poison).

(This Week #4)

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteous; for they shall be filled” (v. 6)

Question: What does it mean to hunger and thirst?

Question: What is the righteousness Jesus is talking about?

Question: What does it mean to be filled?

(Matthew 5:6 Is An Encouraging Promise)

- ◆ Jesus **promises** something, to those who desire something!
- ◆ Jesus **guarantees** something, to those who long for something!
- ◆ Jesus **assures** us all of something, if we will align ourselves with Him!

I. **What Does It Mean To Hunger And Thirst?**

“Blessed are they which do **hunger** and **thirst**”

Fact: Hunger and thirst are 2 words that speak of desire.

Fact: They are words that speak of appetite.

Fact: They reveal a craving and aspiration.

- ◆ The word “**Hunger**” here comes from the Greek word (PEINAO) which means:
#1. To crave for #2. To toil for #3. To starve after

- ◆ The word “**Thirst**” here comes from the Greek word (DIPSAO) which means:
#1. To thirst after #2. To long after #3. To yearn after

- ◆ Both the words “**Hunger**” and “**Thirst**” are in the accusative case.
- ◆ Both the words “**Hunger**” and “**Thirst**” are Greek verbs that reflect hungering and thirsty for the whole of something.
- ◆ They are usually in the genitive case which means to desire just a little bit of something.
- ◆ But here (in the accusative case) they mean “to hunger and thirst for all the righteousness that is possible”.

(They Mean:)

1. To crave and starve after in your soul.
2. To thirst and long after from deep within.
3. To yearn and aspire without reservation.
4. To go after until you attain your objective.
5. To possess a tenacious spirit and attitude that will overcome every objection and interference.

Question: Why did Jesus say “Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst?”

- ◆ Because it is the pre-requisite to spiritually.
- ◆ It is the one condition everybody chooses.
- ◆ It is the virtue that allows all other virtues to grow in the heart.
- ◆ It is the determining factor between spiritual and carnal Christians.

It Is No Secret To Anyone:

- #1. Those who want to be spiritual will be spiritual (and)
- #2. Those who don't want to be spiritual will not be spiritual.

(Charles Spurgeon Said:)

“In no place of this great universe did anyone ever become spiritually devout by accident”

1. “Whatever negligence may creep into your studies, or into your pursuits of pleasure or of business, let there be one point, at least on which you are always watchful, always alive: I mean in the performance of your religious duties. Let nothing induce you, even for a day, to neglect the perusal of Scripture. You know the value of prayer; it is precious beyond all price. Never, never neglect it”. – (Buxton to his son)
2. A treatise on the excellence and dignity of the soul, by Claude Bishop of Toul, ends thus: “I have but one soul, and I will value it”.
3. Grotius, the historian, cried in death, “Ah, I have consumed my life in a laborious doing of nothing. I would give all my learning and honor for the plain integrity of John Urick” (a poor man of eminent piety).
4. A dying nobleman exclaimed, “Good God, how have I employed myself! In what delirium has my life been passed! What have I been doing while the sun in its race, and the stars in their courses, have lent their beams, perhaps only to light me to perdition! I have pursued shadows, and entertained myself with dreams. I have been treasuring up dust, and sporting myself with the wind. I might have gazed with the beasts of the field, or sung with the birds of the woods, to much better purpose than any for which I have lived.”

II. What Are We To Hunger And Thirst For?

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst (after what?) **after righteousness**”

Question: What is this “Righteousness” we are to earnestly long for?

Answer: It is a two-fold meaning:

- ◆ The Greek word for “**Righteousness**” here is (DIKAIOS) which means:
 - #1. To be holy in position (and)
 - #2. To be holy in practice!

Fact: To be holy in position (is justification)

Fact: To be holy in practice (is sanctification)

Question: What does Jesus say is the one condition of a blessed enjoyable life here on earth?

Answer: #1. To desire to be right with God. (Justification)
#2. To desire to live right for God. (Sanctification)

#1. To be right (Justification) is God's part when we come by faith and repent of sin.

#2. To live right (Sanctification) is our part as we cooperate with God's spirit in the transformation process.

Question: Why is the world so unhappy?

Answer: Because they hunger and thirst to be happy!

Question: Why can't they be happy?

Answer: Because happiness is not an end in itself (it comes as the result of seeking something else).

Question: What is the "something else"?

Answer: The something else is "righteousness" (as our goal) which leaves us happy.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ Happy people are people who are **longing to be like Jesus.**
- ◆ Happy people are those whose goal in life is **to please God.**
- ◆ Happy people are people whose chief end in life is **to possess the image of their creator.**
- ◆ Happy people are those people who exert every effort to **cooperate with God and be free from sin.**

(Unhappy People...)

- ◆ ...Are seeking happiness apart from God and can't find it.
- ◆ ...Unhappy people seek happiness in power, possessions, pleasure and pennies, and can't find it.
- ◆ ...Unhappy Christians seek happiness in running to this meeting, running to that preacher, running to that church, running to that event..
- ◆ ...Unhappy Christians are looking for other people to make them happy.

Question: What is it that leaves you blessed with true spiritual joy?

Answer: "Blessed are you that hunger and thirst after (what?) righteousness".

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The degree of my spiritual joy will be equal to my desire (hunger and thirst) to be free from sin in every form. (repeat)
- ◆ The degree of my spiritual joy will be equal to my desire to be in right relationship with God.
- ◆ The degree of my spiritual joy will be commensurate to my surrender to God's Word in my life.
- ◆ The degree of my spiritual joy (and strength) will be equal to my appetite after God.

(In Fact)

- ◆ People who constantly run to something (are really running from something) Why?
- ◆ Because contentment can only be found in fellowship with Jesus.

- ◆ And, to the degree I find my happiness in Jesus – to that degree I don't have to substitute someone (or some thing) else.

(In Other Words)

- ◆ The degree of my spiritual health will be the degree of my relationship with Jesus!

III. What is the promised Guarantee to those who hunger and thirst to be righteous and live righteous?

“Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be (what?) **filled**”

Fact: This is one of the greatest promises of God.

Fact: This is one of the devils greatest fears!

Fact: This is one of your greatest gifts to inherit from God.

Question: What does it mean to be filled in (v. 6)?

Answer: It means that you will be given what you desire in holiness and purity (“you will be filled” means):

- ◆ You will conquer every besetting sin and habit.
- ◆ You will overcome every temptation to backslide.
- ◆ You will resist satan in every season of life.
- ◆ You will “Stand tall” when fiery darts are hurled your way.

Question: Why will you overcome the power of sin?

Answer: Because you hunger and thirst after God's character...

- ◆ ...and God gets involved when we mean business.
- ◆ ...God comes on the scene to enable you to stand.
- ◆ ...God fills the person who is empty of themselves.
- ◆ ...God will be enough for the person who wants Him above all else.

Fact: The Greek word for “Filled” (in verse 6) is (CHORTAZO) which means:

- #1. To feed (and)
- #2. To satisfy

(In Other Words)

- ◆ My satisfaction and contentment comes from God (according to the degree of my hunger and thirst to be like Him!

AMEN!
Bill Kirk, Pastor