

## **Beatitudes—Hungering for God**

*(Week 4—Feb 3<sup>rd</sup>)*

***“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”***  
**-Matthew 5:6**

A double-double from In N Out... A fat, juicy steak... Chicken and shrimp fajitas... A 7-layer burrito... A glass of perfectly chilled water when you're so parched you can't talk... Jesus uses one of the most basic human instincts and drives to give a picture for an important spiritual truth—We desperately need to have a spiritual appetite that craves God and His righteousness rather than sin, the world, or any form of human self-righteousness.

Righteousness can refer to any and all spiritual blessings. All spiritual blessings and joys are purchased for us by the righteousness of Jesus Christ that has been credited to us through our faith in Him. Through Him we have been made righteous before God and our inner person is being renewed from glory to glory so that we might bear the image of God as His new creation that has been born again into a new spiritual life.

When we hunger and thirst for the blessings of God, of which He Himself is the most rich and satisfying, we crave and desire a specific thing to satisfy us—and no substitute is adequate. Everything else is bland, even gross, and incapable of curing our desires (like a tofu salad...uggghhh!) We must seek to satisfy this hunger and thirst with great effort, not letting anything get in our way and stopping at nothing until we have received and consumed the thing that our spirit craves. This spiritual hunger comes from our soul and it is God's Spirit that nourishes and provokes it. This appetite returns frequently, just as our physical appetite does, because it can never be completely satisfied by one meal of God's sweet goodness. It is renewed daily by fresh grace from God (if we are listening to God and connecting with Him by standing under His waterfall of grace and truth).

As God does renew our spiritual appetite, we must be willing to work diligently to receive our nourishment just as we would work to get physical food or drink. We must take pains to pursue the spiritual food that our soul craves, using the tools and means God has given us:

- Seeking fellowship with Christ through His Word and His people
- Dwelling in a constant state of communication with God through unceasing prayer
- Rejoicing in the goodness and love of God through heart-felt worship
- Washing our minds and hearts in truth
- Purifying our bodies through obedience

We must give our everything to take in these spiritual meals and satisfy our soul's hunger and thirst for God!

When we hunger/thirst for God righteousness, we are blessed because God is continuing His work in our hearts. He directs us to focus solely on the One true object that satisfies while rejecting all the imposters that promise to satisfy us but deceive us and leave us ashamed and starving (sinful desires for pleasure, sexual

immorality, constant entertainment, escapism through entertainment or self-harm, seeking comfort and hope in people or ideal circumstances, etc.). And, we are blessed by being fully satisfied with God's fullness as He fills us with the happiness of heaven and His infinite Joy in who He is—what joy we have when we look fully in the face of Jesus! Remember, only God is capable of filling these deep spiritual appetites with His grace, His goodness and His love.

### **Questions**

**What is your favorite meal in the whole world?**

**What do you think it would be like to desire spending time with God as much if not more than you desire this amazing meal?**

**Read Isaiah 55. What does God say about coming to Him to find satisfaction for our souls in v.1-3? What does it mean that His food is free (without cost)?**

**Are there things that you are trying to find satisfaction in outside of God right now? What are they? Confess these to God and ask Him to help you see that He is your only true source of righteousness and joy.**

**Read John 4:1-14 and John 6:1-58. What does it mean that Jesus can be living water for us? And that He is the living bread? Are you drinking this living water and eating the living bread? What does Jesus say we will experience if we do this (4:14; 6:35, 50-51, 54, 58). Look at 6:56—Is He abiding in you?**