

**“Blessed Are Those Who Hunger
and Thirst for Righteousness”**

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

- “This beatitude prompts a look at our heart's desire. What hungers and desires operate within us? Which of them commands our utmost loyalty?” (John W. Miller, *The Christian Way*)
- “It is the desire for God which is the most fundamental appetite of all, and it is an appetite we can never eliminate. We may seek to disown it, but it will not go away. If we deny that it is there, we shall in fact only divert it to some other object or range of objects. And that will mean that we invest some creature or creatures with the full burden of our need for God, a burden which no creature can carry.” (Simon Tugwell)
- “To be hungry is not enough. I must be starving to know what God's will is for me. When the prodigal son was hungry, he went to feed on the husks of the pigs; but, when he was starving, he went to his father.” (Darby)

“Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

- A beatitude rich and powerful in meaning
 - A desire
 - The object of that desire
 - The satisfying of that desire

“Blessed Are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness”

- Blessed - markarios - “supremely blest; by extension, fortunate, well off; blessed, happy” (Strongs)
- Hunger - peinao - “the idea of pinching toil; pine; to famish, to crave; to hunger” (Strongs)
- Thirst - dipsao - “to thirst for; be parched, thirsty” (Strongs)
- Righteousness - dikaiosune - “equity of character or action; especially Christian justification; the state of righteousness” (Strongs)
- Filled - cortadzo - “to fodder, generally to gorge; supply food in abundance; feed, fill, satisfy” (Strongs)

A Desire – Hunger And Thirst

- How can one hunger and thirst for righteousness when the body is hungry for food and suffering from thirst?
- Spirituality and maturity are processes only achieved by exercise
- “The desire for God is written in the human heart, because man is created by God and for God; and God never ceases to draw man to himself. Only in God will he find the truth and happiness he never stops seeking” (Thomas Aquinas)

A Desire – Hunger And Thirst

- Psalm 63:1-8
- John 6:28-35, 48-51
- John 4:9-15

The Object Of Desire – Righteousness

- Not our own righteousness
 - Isa. 64:6 - “But we are all like an unclean thing, And all our righteousnesses are like filthy rags; We all fade as a leaf, And our iniquities, like the wind, Have taken us away”
 - Matt. 5:20 - “For I say to you, that unless your righteousness exceeds the righteousness of the scribes and Pharisees, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven.”

The Object Of Desire – Righteousness

- Not our own righteousness
 - Phil. 3:8-10 - “Yet indeed I also count all things loss for the excellence of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord, for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and count them as rubbish, that I may gain Christ 9 and be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith; 10 that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection, and the fellowship of His sufferings, being conformed to His death”

The Object Of Desire – Righteousness

- Righteousness from God
 - Rom. 10:1-4 - “Brethren, my heart's desire and prayer to God for Israel is that they may be saved. 2 For I bear them witness that they have a zeal for God, but not according to knowledge. 3 For they being ignorant of God's righteousness, and seeking to establish their own righteousness, have not submitted to the righteousness of God. 4 For Christ is the end of the law for righteousness to everyone who believes.”

The Object Of Desire – Righteousness

- Righteousness from God
 - Phil. 3:9 - “And be found in Him, not having my own righteousness, which is from the law, but that which is through faith in Christ, the righteousness which is from God by faith”
 - Rom. 1:16-17 - “For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. 17 For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, The just shall live by faith.”

The Object Of Desire – Righteousness

- Put the pursuit of righteousness above all other activities
 - Matt. 6:33 - “But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you”
- Let God define righteousness; our part is to do it
 - 1John 3:7 - “Little children, let no one deceive you. He who practices righteousness is righteous, just as He is righteous.”

The Satisfying Of Desire – Filled

- What do you do when you are hungry? Eat! There is enough food and drink in the Bible to last one several lifetimes
 - 1Peter 2:2 - “As newborn babes, desire the pure milk of the word, that you may grow thereby”
 - 2Tim. 3:15 - “And that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.”

The Satisfying Of Desire – Filled

- Psalm 37:3-8 - “Trust in the LORD, and do good; Dwell in the land, and feed on His faithfulness. 4 Delight yourself also in the LORD, And He shall give you the desires of your heart. 5 Commit your way to the LORD, Trust also in Him, And He shall bring it to pass. 6 He shall bring forth your righteousness as the light, And your justice as the noonday. 7 Rest in the LORD, and wait patiently for Him; Do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, Because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass. 8 Cease from anger, and forsake wrath; Do not fret-it only causes harm. 9 For evildoers shall be cut off; But those who wait on the LORD, They shall inherit the earth.”

The Satisfying Of Desire – Filled

- “The soul can do without everything except the word of God, without which none at all of its wants are provided for.” (Martin Luther, On Christian Liberty)
- “We need to encourage new believers to feed on God’s Word; it is nourishment for the soul. Faith grows when it is planted in the fertile soil of God’s Word.” (Graham)
- “Don’t feed your body and keep your spirit starving. Butter bread for your body and living bread for your spirit; read the Bible every day and keep your spirit away from hunger.” (Israelmore Ayivor, Daily Drive)