

BLESSARE THOSE WHO HUNGER & THIRST FOR
RIGHTEOUSNESS Text: Matthew 5:6

INTRO: In the beatitudes of Matt. 5, Jesus speaks of the blessedness of those who are faithful in the kingdom of God—the poor in spirit, the one who mourns for his sin, the meek. And in today’s lesson, blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness. They will be filled.

- I. APPETITE IN THE PHYSICAL REALM.
 - A. A mark of life. Dead men have no appetite. In some cultures survivors place food in the coffins or on the graves of the dead. But the dead don’t eat it.
 - B. A mark of health. The sick usually have little or no appetite. They already “feel” full—not hungry.
 - C. A road to growth. Nourishment is essential to proper growth. Even those who are mature need nourishment to replace cells, etc.
 - D. A source of enjoyment. When Jesus wanted to illustrate the blessings in the kingdom of God, He frequently spoke in terms of a great supper, Matt 22; Luke 14; Rev. 19.
- II. AS IN THE PHYSICAL REALM, SO IN THE SPIRITUAL, IT IS THE DEAD & THE DYING WHO HAVE NO APPETITE.
 - A. Many of the Jews in the times of Jesus & Paul. LK 18:9; Rom. 10:1-3.
 - B. The church in Laodicea. Rev. 3:17-20.
 - C. Many lose their appetite for the milk of the word by filling themselves with Satan’s victuals, 1 Cor. 10:21. Like Israel in the wilderness, Num. 21:5.
 - D. “Didn’t get anything out of the lesson” Didn’t bring anything to put it in. I’ve heard some sermons poorly organized, poorly presented, but seldom one that you

couldn't take something home if you brought anything to put it in.

III. **THEY HUNGER & THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS.**

A. Defined: The character or quality of being righteous.
Old spelling: rightwiseness.

B. Theoretically there are 2 ways of being righteous.

1. By never sinning.
2. By having all sin washed away—forgiven.

IV. **BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER & THIRST.**

A. Their appetite is evidence that they are not dead or dying. Perhaps they have not arrived, but they are getting there.

To David: 1 Kings 8:18, Whereas it was in your heart to build a temple for My name, you did well that it was in your heart.

John 7:17, If anyone wants to do His will, he shall know concerning the doctrine, whether it is from God or whether I speak on My own authority.

B. Those who hunger & thirst are blessed because they will seek and find. Matt. 7:7-8.

C. They will be filled.

John 4:14, Whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life."

John 6:35, I am the bread of life. He who comes to Me shall never hunger, and he who believes in Me shall never thirst.

1. Actual attainment of a higher degree of righteous living.
2. **Perfect** forgiveness of sins.

CONCLUSION: Truly, blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness. They will be filled & nourished by the word of God in the here & now—and have access to the tree of life & water of life forever in the heavens.

Shiloh, Mexia, TX, August 9, 1992

Susquehanna, Marietta, PA, January 30, 2005

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