

Hungry & Thirsty Satisfied

Series – Prayer & Holiness

- communication with God
- Holiness is essential

Practical Holiness – Matthew 5-9

- Poor in Spirit – Kingdom of Heaven
- Those who Mourn – will be comforted
- The Meek – inherit the earth

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*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.”*

Matthew 5:6

1. Hunger & Thirst

- God created us with some essential needs
- physically desire what we need to survive
- body telling us what we are lacking – need
- created to need food & water to live

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a) Spiritually designed for Relationship

- with one another

- with God

 - need to belong, security, love, significance

- live with a restlessness, longing, discontent

Isaiah 55:2-3 “Why spend money on what is not bread, and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me, that your soul may live.”

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Jeremiah 2:12-13 *“Be appalled at this, O heavens, and shudder with great horror,” declares the LORD. 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.”*

- recognize that the soul of man is designed to need nourishment – we live with a hunger and thirst that springs from real needs we were created to have met.

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b) Satisfaction is not found on our own

- can you identify with:
 - pursuit of fulfillment, satisfaction, inner at rest?
 - grass is greener everywhere else?
 - everything comes up short – new fades & becomes old, thrill of lust brings wake of guilt & loneliness, escape from reality brings crushing awareness?
- drink from the toilet when pure water available

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- Psalm 23 *“leads me beside quiet waters, restores my soul”*

- C.S. Lewis – “If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.”

- Jesus has something to say to all of us about this universal experience of an inconsolable longing. The insatiable hunger of the human heart and the relentless thirst of our souls!

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2. For Righteousness

-websters “acting in accord with divine or moral law, morally right or justifiable”

- living out in action what is real in our hearts.

- Deut. 6:5 *“Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength.”*

- Micah 6:6-8 *“With what shall I come before the LORD and bow down before the exalted God? Shall I come before him with burnt offerings, with calves a year old? Will the LORD be pleased with thousands of rams, with ten thousand rivers of oil? Shall I offer my firstborn for my transgression, the fruit of my body for the sin of my soul? He has showed you, O man, what is good. And what does the LORD require of you? **To act justly and to love mercy and to walk humbly with your God.**”*

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- term used five times in this sermon

- a) something rejected by those who don't have it

- *5:10 Blessed are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.*

- right living – acting in accordance with God's will & design.

- live differently – new perspective & heart dictating actions and attitudes

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b) About heart and actions vs. 20

- *“For I tell you that unless your righteousness surpasses that of the Pharisees and the teachers of the law, you will certainly not enter the kingdom of heaven.”*

- vs. 21-26 – not simply don’t kill – not sustain anger towards others

- vs. 27-30 – not simply don’t commit adultery – do not look on others with lust

- vs. 33-37 – not only keep your oaths – speak truth that can be counted on without an oath

- vs. 38-42 – eye for an eye, letter of the law – return evil with good

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- vs. 43-48 – Love neighbor, hate enemy – love your enemy, pray for oppressors

* Righteousness speaks of deep convictions that are actions. Continuity of what I believe and is in my heart being seen in what I do and say. Authentic and unmistakable!

3. Be Satisfied (filled)

- Jesus speaks of living water, bread of life
- What you are made to need – available in this kingdom.
- In relationship with God through Jesus – hunger satisfied, thirst sated – one place where we can find relief

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a) Words of Warning

- desire to run off, simply lock ourselves away and gorge at the food & water that satisfies
- See a distinction between those who simply want to know more about God, and those who seek righteousness in their life.
- 6:33 – *“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well. Therefore do not worry about tomorrow, for tomorrow will worry about itself. Each day has enough trouble of its own “*

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- 7:22-23 "Not everyone who says to me, 'Lord, Lord,' will enter the kingdom of heaven, but only he who does the will of my Father who is in heaven. Many will say to me on that day, 'Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name, and in your name drive out demons and perform many miracles?' Then I will tell them plainly, 'I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!'"

- called him Lord, seemed to prophesy, engaged in exorcism & miracles, called evil doers, sent away.

- religious not righteous – hunger & thirst was for experience not a pursuit of righteousness that affects hearts and actions and satisfies our inner need.

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So What

1. Created by God with Legitimate Hunger & Thirst Issues
 - point to something essential lacking
 - scream to be addressed in all of us
 - how are you dealing with your hunger & thirst?
2. One Place for Satisfaction to be Found
 - righteousness – passion in life to know him and struggle to be like him in our world.
 - encompasses both heart and actions, attitudes - all

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3. When we Pursue Righteousness – Satisfaction Promised
- not calling for more religious involvement
 - careful not to make this about experience, passion alone
 - relationship with living God – personal & available
 - decision to pursue God's heart, and live out the traits and values imparted there – righteousness – that satisfies!