

Blessed are Those who Hunger and Thirst

The Gospel of Matthew, Part 16

Matthew 5:6

Sermon Outline

I. The Description of Spiritual Desire

A. Hunger (Ps. 34:8-9, 107:9, Jn. 6:35)

B. Thirst (Is. 55:1-6, Jn. 4:10-14, 7:37)

II. The Object of Spiritual Desire

A. Desire to know the Righteous God. (Ps. 73:25)

B. Desire to be declared righteous by God. (Legal, Rm 3:21+)

C. Desire to live righteously before God. (Moral, Ti. 2:11-13)

D. Desire to see God's righteousness accomplished in the world and in others. (Social, Prov. 15:9)

III. The Satisfaction of Spiritual Desire

A. Satisfaction is given by God, not achieved by ourselves.

B. Our spiritual hunger is met by God's satisfaction.

C. God's satisfaction creates more spiritual hunger.

D. Will heaven end this cycle or deepen it?

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Questions for Discussion & Reflection

1. How do the first three beatitudes lead up to the fourth?

2. What does an infant child need to survive? Why do you think that God made us with needs? What do we need to eternally survive?

3. Have you ever been really hungry or extremely thirsty? Describe that experience and that feeling. What's that like? What do the metaphors of hunger and thirst conjure up for you? Discuss how these are active and desperate expressions of desire.

4. What are some of the things we seek, desire or hunger for in life? What do we give for these things we want?

5. How do the best relationships in our lives demand all of us? Your relationship with a best friend, a spouse or your children? Why does God desire all of us, why does He want us to hunger and thirst for Him?

6. What does Jesus say is to be the object of our spiritual desire? Explain the rich and full dimensions of what this means.

7. What is the difference between legal, moral and social justice? Which is Jesus talking about in Matthew 5:6? Can we achieve any of these? Which have we neglected and not desired appropriately?

8. Why is spiritual desire a cycle? Do you think heaven will end the cycle or deepen it? (Look at Revelation 22)