

Matthew 5:6
Hungering and Thirsting after
Righteousness
Beatitudes, Part 3

Today we are in Part 3 of series in the Beatitudes. – Sermon on the Mount.

A) Once again the Context of this sermon –

Seeing the Multitudes

B) Jesus goes up on a Hillside overlooking the Sea of Galilee – **Pic**

C) **His Disciples come to him** – (more than the 12 – men and women.

D) He is going to teach them - instruct them – equip them

1) Jesus knows – when He is gone – this is the group that He is going to use to reach the multitude – **REACH THE WORLD.**

Jesus begins His sermon by describing True Happiness

A) 1ST Section – Beatitudes – Begins with the Word – Blessed = Happy - HAPPY ARE.

B) **The Pursuit of happiness is a popular topic** – google the Pursuit of Happiness – over 47million hits

C) Lots of opinions on how to find it:

Albert Swietzer: “Happiness is nothing more than good health..... and a Bad memory.”

Comedian George Burns: “Happiness is having a large loving, caring and close Knit family – IN another city.”

Milton Berrill – “A man doesn’t know what true happiness is until he gets married.... Then it is too late.”

Oscar Wild – “Some cause happiness where ever they go, others when ever they go!”

C) The world tries to find Happiness – external things – right Job, the right Person, House – Happenings -

1) Everything – Working together –

D) Jesus’ description of Happiness is Inward – Character.

1) That is what is clearly seen in this first section: Beatitudes Read Vs 1-16 – Pray

Looked at the First three – Poor in spirit

A) Utter dependency – Desperate for God -

B) Can’t do anything – Eternal value – Christ follower

C) **Engine of the Train** - Everything starts here – flows from here.

Leads to mourning – my condition – World

A) Which then leads to MEEKNESS wanting to live a life surrendered to God –

B) Meekness – Power under control – Wild Stallion – Broken in

C) **Life Harnessed** under the power and inspiration of the Holy Spirit

D) Noted that – the Beatitudes are **not attitudes we work into our own lives – per se –**

1) But attitudes God is seeking to work into us – by His Spirit

Peter is a great example of what that Process can look like in a person’s life. He was a big burly Fisherman.

A) Once pulled in – a net full of 153 normal sized fish – all by himself - **Big man – Powerful man**

B) Self confident man – **Outspoken man** - He loved Jesus

C) Peter is a guy I most identify with.

1) Peter loved Jesus – He tried really hard to show it

D) He tried really hard to get it right.

Prior to Pentecost – He is up and down and all around –

A) Good moments: leave also – Lord where... ETERNAL LIFE

B) Who do men say I am? – Christ

1) Flesh and blood did not

C) Put his foot in his mouth – tried way too hard

MOUNT OF TRANSFIGURATION - Lord let me build.....

1) Didn't know what to say – felt like he needed to say something.

D) Low moment - Get behind me Satan

Lowest- This night all will forsake me - Lord not me! – Rest of these losers – Peter you will deny.... – NO WAY

A) Peter Loved Jesus and he was absolutely sincere. – TRIED TO DEFEND

B) Peter did the **exact thing that he could never imagine himself doing**

1) He denied Jesus not once, twice – but three times

When that Rooster Crowed – **Peter Wept bitterly**

C) Peter was Broken: - Peter came to the end of himself –

1) That is really a good description of being poor in spirit – coming to the end of yourself –

Peter mourned – but He would be comforted!

A) Three days later: Resurrection - Go tell the Disciples and Peter

B) Peter singled out – Because I think – he no longer felt like a Disciple

C) When Peter heard that he probably felt – “Jesus wants to see me, really?”

1 Corinthians 15 – Private meeting -

A) I think: Jesus told Peter you can't do this on your own.

B) In his love for Christ – but he had to learn that he couldn't serve Jesus in his own strength

C) **After Pentecost – Different story** { Peter finally becomes this example of Meekness –

1) Power – under control – His life – **Harnessed** under the Power of Jesus

D) **Didn't mean perfect** – but he goes from being this guy who was just all over the place emotionally to being FOCUSED AND EFFECTIVE!

E) That is often how this process works - God brings you to the end of yourself –

1) TEARS you down – BROKEN - Builds you up

TODAY THE 4TH Beatitude: Blessed are those who Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness.

A) What does it mean to Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness?

B) Holiness – Desire to be Right in my relationship with God!

1) **Positional Righteousness – Justification**
Practical Righteousness – Sanctification

C) Sanctification – A desire to have a life that is more and more set apart to the Lord

1) **Hunger to see God's will and God's way** – played out in my life – in all my relationships – Routines

D) Integrity: ²¹ **Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.”** – Proverbs 21:21

But to put it really simply: To Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness is to Hunger for MORE OF JESUS

A) GET MORE OF JESUS – All of those other things become a part of my life.

B) **Hunger and thirst are two of our basic body drives.** They are exceeded only by our air drive.

C) If you have ever attempted to go on a **fast** for a few days you realize how strong the hunger drive can get.

D) **And This was no mere reference to hunger which could be satisfied by a mid-morning snack.**

1) The thought here of Hunger is that of starvation.

Doubt that any of us have ever been that Hungry.

A) When **a man is that hungry** He has no interest in other things, because the only thing that will satisfy him is food.

B) All those other things that people value so highly are meaningless to him in comparison to satisfying his hunger.

C) **David paints a graphic picture** in the Psalms of a **Deer** that has been running through the forest in search of water – finally finds it – Panting.

“As the deer pants for the water brooks, So pants my soul for You, O God.” ~ Psalm 42:1

O God, You are my God; Early will I seek You; My soul thirsts for You; My flesh longs for You In a dry and thirsty land, Where there is no water. ~ Psalm 63:1

D) **Dry and thirsty land – no water – Dessert – Parched – thirsty**

Those who are hungering and thirsting after Righteousness don't let anything get in their way of acquiring it.

A) **Great example is Bartimeaus** – Cried out even louder

B) Nothing was going to stand in his way from meeting Jesus

Again we see a great example of this in the Life of Peter!

A) His last Epistle: The last recorded words that Peter writes are these

“.....grow in the grace and knowledge of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

To Him *be* the glory both now and forever. Amen.” ~ 2 Peter 3:18

B) Grow.... Holiness – Dedication – Servanthood – Grow in the Grace and Knowledge of our Lord Jesus

C) **Peter had been a recipient of Grace – Greatest thing in His life – More of Jesus –**

1) Knowledge of who He is – His Grace

D) Daily in the temple – Prayer – Daily gathering with the saints to dig into the Word – Consumed with Jesus

Dd) **Acts 4 Highest Compliment – “Uneducated and untrained men – tell they been with Jesus.”**

1) Months maybe even a year – after Pentecost

E) No one said that to Peter prior to Pentecost - Denial – Your accent betrays you – Not Your Character – Heart

There is a Promise attached to each Beatitude:

A) Poor in Spirit – Promise is - for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven

B) Salvation: We become partakers of a Heavenly Calling

C) Present ongoing aspect as well: **Kingdom Resources –**

1) Jesus said: **Kingdom of God is among you** All the resources of the King become available to those who are poor in spirit.

D) Grace is sufficient

Blessed are those who mourn Comforted

A) Broken and contrite heart God doesn't turn away from – He turns toward

B) Meek – inherit the earth:

1) Satisfied in this life -

➤ **Future: Co-heirs with Christ**

C) **The Promise for those who Hunger and Thirst after Righteousness – they shall be filled -**

D) James 4:8 “Draw near to me and I will draw near to you.”

We are all familiar with and Love Jeremiah 29:11

“For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

“¹³ And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD.”

A devoted follower of Socrates asked him the best way to acquire knowledge.

A) Socrates responded by leading him to a river and plunging him beneath the surface.

B)The man struggled to free himself, but Socrates kept his head submerged.

Finally, after much effort, the man was able to break loose and emerge from the water.

A)Socrates then asked, “When you thought you were drowning, what one thing did you want most of all?”

B)Still gasping for breath, the man exclaimed, “I wanted air!”

C)The philosopher wisely commented, “When you want knowledge as much as you wanted air, then you will get it!”

D)OBVIOUS – EXTREME: But something happens in the Life of the Person – who wants Jesus more than anything else.

Eating Spiritually is different from Eating Physically.

A)**Thanksgiving Day** - You want to be hungry – when it is time for Dinner

B)Table is Spread – you eye everything right – Plan of attack

1)Measure everything by the Dessert table.

C)Half way in – Like Can’t eat another Bite – So full.

1)Time it came for Dessert – Stuffed – Only had one thing

Physically the more you eat the more full you get.

A)**Spiritually it is the opposite:** the More you eat the more hungry you get.

B)**Your appetite grows** – Some of you have experienced this here:

1)First came here – 20 minutes into the study – antsy – When stop?

BB)Now you sit for 45min –when it is over – Over already?

C)You come on Wed night and listen for an hour – take notes

1)That is the Difference between eating Physically and Spiritually

D)There is always a Hunger for more!

So How can we Build our spiritual Appetite?
#1 Priorities

➤ David Psalm 27 **One thing Desired..... seek** – Passion and a Pursuit

➤ Paul Philippians 3 **“this one thing I do.”**

➤ Jesus to Martha Luke 10 **“One thing is needed.”**

So How can we Build our spiritual Appetite?

#1 Priorities

#2 Diet – What are you feeding on

Ruin our appetite

A)I am the King of ruining my dinner – Makes my wife so mad

➤ Dessert before Dinner

B)Sweet tooth - **Frazees Carmel Corn** – Bag – 1)NEVER MADE IT HOME

C)This year a bag for both of us!

But I can be snacking on things all day – only to find out I get home – Denise – Amazing Dinner –

A)BUT I AM NOT HUNGRY!

B)Same thing can happen Spiritually!

1)You can ruin your appetite for the Lord and the things of the Spirit – THE WORD –

C)Because you are filling up on the things of the world. (Not necessarily sinful things)

1)Too much Work – Hobbies - Entertainment Stocks – **Ministry – Martha**

E)Stimulate your Hunger – Books – Studies

So How can we Build our spiritual Appetite?

#1 Priorities

#2 Diet – What are you feeding on

#3 Exercise –

Get involved – Serve – Share –

A)Hunger for more!