

Refine Women's Ministry
The Beatitudes: Matthew 5:1-12
Beatitude #4: Happy are the Hungry and Thirsty
October 11, 2017 by Ann Malm

“The heart is as insatiable as the grave till Jesus enters it, and then it is a cup full to overflowing. He who is a believer in Jesus finds enough in his Lord to satisfy him now, and to content him for evermore.” Charles Spurgeon

We find the Beatitudes in the gospel of Mathew, a book written primarily to a Jewish audience with the overall theme of Christ as King. This emphasis can be found in Mathew's recording of Jesus lineage, the worship of the magi (who were the official oriental kingmakers), the fulfilling of the kingly prophecies of the Old Testament and the dominion He has over Satan. In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus presents the nature of His kingdom and the qualities held by those in it. We notice right away this is not like any kingdom that we have seen. Jesus offers happiness, but not in the way the world pursues it. This tells the hearer (reader) that this kingdom is not of this world; this King is not of this world; therefore it must be spiritual kingdom. *“People ask, ‘Are the truths in the Beatitudes the rules on how you get into the kingdom, or are they rules on how to live once you are in the kingdom?’ The answer is yes.” John MacArthur*

The Beatitudes in Matthew 5:1-12 [NASB]

- 1 When Jesus saw the crowds, He went up on the mountain; and after He sat down, His disciples came to Him.
- 2 He opened His mouth and began to teach them, saying,
- 3 “Blessed are the **poor in spirit**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 4 “Blessed are those who **mourn**, for they shall be comforted.
- 5 “Blessed are the **gentle [meek]**, for they shall inherit the earth.
- 6 “Blessed are those who **hunger and thirst for righteousness**, for they shall be satisfied.
- 7 “Blessed are the **merciful**, for they shall receive mercy.
- 8 “Blessed are the **pure in heart**, for they shall see God.
- 9 “Blessed are the **peacemakers**, for they shall be called sons of God.
- 10 “Blessed are those who have been **persecuted for the sake of righteousness**, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.
- 11 “Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me.
- 12 “Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

“In the first three Beatitudes we are called upon to witness the heart exercises of one who has been awakened by the Spirit of God. First, there is a sense of need, a realization of my nothingness and emptiness. Second, there is a judging of self, a consciousness of my guilt, and a sorrowing over my lost condition. Third, there is a cessation of seeking to justify myself before God, an abandonment of all pretenses to personal merit, and a taking of my place in the dust before God. Here, in the fourth Beatitude, the eye of the soul is turned away from self toward God for a very special reason: there is a longing after a righteousness that I urgently need but know that I do not possess.” A.W. Pink

Blessed Are the Hungry and Thirsty

- **Hunger** – Greek verb *peinao*- means to be needy, to suffer deep hunger. To crave ardently, to seek with eager desire; through the idea of intense toil; "pine"; to famish.

- **Thirst** – Greek verb *dipsao*- to suffer thirst, suffer from thirst; figuratively, those who are said to thirst who painfully feel their want of, and eagerly long for, those things by which the soul is refreshed, supported, strengthened.

- *“Jesus puts the strongest physical impulses in a continuous action, present participle – the ones who **are** hungering, the ones who **are** thirsting. [This] speaks of a very strong desire, a driving pursuit, a passionate force inside us, an ambition.” John MacArthur*

Ps 42:1

*As the deer pants for the water brooks,
So my soul pants for You, O God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God;
When shall I come and appear before God?*

Ps. 63:1

*O God, You are my God; I shall seek You earnestly;
My soul thirsts for You, my flesh yearns for You,
In a dry and weary land where there is no water.*

Every person has a heart that hungers after God. In man’s rebellion he seeks to fill this void apart from God. Thirsting for happiness and hungering for fulfillment they seek satisfaction in all the wrong places. Isaiah 55:2 *“Why do you spend money for what is not bread, And your wages for what does not satisfy?”* John 6:27 *“Do not work for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to eternal life, which the Son of Man will give to you, for on Him the Father, God, has set His seal.”* Simply hungering and thirsting are not

enough. We must focus our desire, passion and ambition on the only One who can satisfy. John 6:35 *“Jesus said to them, “I am the bread of life; he who comes to Me will not hunger, and he who believes in Me will never thirst.”* We must hunger and thirst for righteousness.

Hungry and Thirsty for Righteousness

Righteousness – Greek noun *dikaiosynē* - a state of him who is as he ought to be, righteousness, the condition acceptable to God; the doctrine concerning the way in which man may attain a state approved of God; integrity, virtue, purity of life, rightness, correctness of thinking feeling, and acting

As noted above, the sinner has come to the conclusion that God’s judgement of Him is accurate, and agreeing with God that He has absolutely no righteousness (no way to make himself right with God) He turns to be filled with Christ’s righteousness and in doing so is saved. This is justification. Out of gratitude for his salvation the saint seeks to become more and more like Christ in thought, word and deed. This is sanctification. Ultimately, the King will return righteousness to the new heavens and new earth, this will be the end of hungering and thirsting! Satisfaction will at last be realized; *And He who sits on the throne said, “Behold, I am making all things new.” And He said, “Write, for these words are faithful and true.” Then He said to me, “It is done. I am the Alpha and the Omega, the beginning and the end. I will give to the one who thirsts from the spring of the water of life without cost.* Revelation 21:5,6

“To have Christ ... and to be made the righteousness of God in him; to have the whole man renewed in righteousness, so as to become a new man, and to bear the image of God; to have an interest in Christ and the promises-this is righteousness.” Matthew Henry

You will be Filled!

Filled – Greek (passive) verb *chortazō* to feed, to fatten," is used

- (a) primarily of animals,
- (b) of persons, to fill or satisfy with food, to gorge

Note that this verse is passive, the hungry and thirsty simply receive; they do not labor in that they cannot fill themselves. The hungering and thirsting are our activity, the filling is God’s. As noted above this filling has a “now and “not yet” quality.

Ps 145:19
*He will fulfill the desire of those who fear Him;
He will also hear their cry and will save them.*

Ps 63:5

*My soul is satisfied as with marrow and fatness,
And my mouth offers praises with joyful lips.*

Ps 36:8

*They drink their fill of the abundance of Your house;
And You give them to drink of the river of Your delights.*

In your groups discuss:

The Threefold Experience

Isaiah 45:8

*Drip down, O heavens, from above, And let the clouds pour down **righteousness**; Let the earth open up and **salvation** bear fruit, And **righteousness** spring up with it. I, the LORD, have created it.*

Isaiah 46:12-13

*Listen to Me, you stubborn-minded, Who are far from **righteousness**. I bring near My **righteousness**, it is not far off; And My **salvation** will not delay. And I will grant **salvation** in Zion, And My glory for Israel.*

Isaiah 61:10

*I will rejoice greatly in the LORD, My soul will exult in my God; For He has clothed me with garments of **salvation**, He has wrapped me with a robe of **righteousness**, As a bridegroom decks himself with a garland, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels.*

Romans 1:16, 17a

*For I am not ashamed of the gospel, for it is the power of God for **salvation** to everyone who believes, to the Jew first and also to the Greek. For in it the **righteousness** of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, "BUT THE RIGHTEOUS man SHALL LIVE BY FAITH.*

1. What is being promised?

2. Can you recall when you **first** hungered and thirsted after righteousness? (Justification) Discuss who or what God used to cause this.

3. How were you filled?

I Kings 10:9 – Spoken to King David

*Blessed be the LORD your God who delighted in you to set you on the throne of Israel; because the LORD loved Israel forever, therefore He made you king, to do justice and **righteousness**.*

Psalm 11:7

*For the LORD is righteous, He loves **righteousness**; The upright will behold His face.*

Psalm 23:3

*He restores my soul; He guides me in the paths of **righteousness** For His name's sake.*

Ephesians 5:8-10

*...for you were formerly darkness, but now you are Light in the Lord; walk as children of Light (for the fruit of the Light consists in all goodness and **righteousness** and truth), trying to learn what is pleasing to the Lord.*

4. Do you hunger and thirst after righteousness in your life? (Sanctification)

5. How are you filled? Is your appetite for righteousness increasing? How can you improve your spiritual diet?

They Shall be Satisfied!

Matthew 6:9-13

Pray, then, in this way:

'Our Father who is in heaven,

Hallowed be Your name.

Your kingdom come.

Your will be done, On earth as it is in heaven.

Give us this day our daily bread.

And forgive us our debts, as we also have forgiven our debtors.

And do not lead us into temptation, but deliver us from evil.

For Yours is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever. Amen.'

2 Peter 3:13

*But according to His promise we are looking for new heavens and a new earth, in which **righteousness** dwells.*

Revelation 7:16,17

They will hunger no longer, nor thirst anymore; nor will the sun beat down on them, nor any heat; for the Lamb in the center of the throne will be their

shepherd, and will guide them to springs of the water of life; and God will wipe every tear from their eyes.

6. What is the ultimate consummation of the promise in this beatitude?

7. Do you live in daily anticipation of the fulfilling of His Kingdom and His righteousness?

8. Discuss some areas you can walk even more worthy as a follower of Jesus Christ.

Summary: Everyone is seeking satisfaction. Not all find it. Satisfaction is found in Christ alone; only His righteousness can fill our longing. This is not the world's way; it is His Kingdom's way. Only a sinner who is poor in spirit, realizing their utter dependence on God, one who mourns over their poverty, then becoming meek will hunger and thirst for righteousness; it is only they who will be filled. The Puritan's used to say, "He has the most need of righteousness who least wants it." We must guard ourselves against self-satisfaction, self-righteousness and pride.

Matthew 6:33 *But seek first His kingdom and His righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.* There is a sense of resting and a sense of wrestling in hungering and thirsting after righteousness. We rest in His merit and power, having achieved peace with God through His Son. Yet there is the daily battling of our flesh as we "work out our salvation with fear and trembling". We are already subjects in His Kingdom, yet we await it's coming.

"Our text presents such a paradox that it is evident that no carnal mind ever invented it. Can one who has been brought into vital union with Him who is the Bread of Life and in whom all fullness dwells be found still hungering and thirsting? Yes, such is the experience of the renewed heart." A.W. Pink

Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Or are you content with what you have attained and satisfied in your condition? Those who hunger and thirst after righteousness SHALL BE FILLED!

"Now to Him who is able to keep you from stumbling, and to make you stand in the presence of His glory blameless with great joy," Jude 24

“Oh the rapture of that hour when the everlasting doors shall be lifted up, and we, being made for the inheritance, shall dwell with the saints in light. Sin gone, Satan shut out, temptation past forever, and ourselves ‘faultless’ before God, this will be heaven indeed!” Charles Spurgeon

RESOURCES:

The Beatitudes: The Only Way to Happiness, by John MacArthur, 1998.

The Beatitudes, by A.W. Pink.

Morning and Evening, Daily Readings by C.H. Spurgeon

Tabletalk: *The Beatitudes*, June 2017

Vines Expository Dictionary

Homework

1. Read Jeremiah 15:16, Matthew 6:33, Proverbs 2:7-9 As you meditate on hungering and thirsting after righteousness, how does God’s Word encourage, convict or rebuke you? Are you seeking His kingdom and His righteousness above all else, or are you filling yourself with that which does not satisfy? How should seeking after righteousness look?
2. Read John 6:48-58. What do you think Jesus means when He says, “My flesh is true food, and My blood is true drink.”? How can you “Eat His flesh and drink His blood”?
3. What specific things are you going to do to develop a hunger and thirst for righteousness in your life? What do you need to stop doing?
4. Matthew 13:44-46, Colossians 1:13,14, 2 Peter 1:10,11. 2 Timothy 4:8 Meditate on your inheritance and the fulfilling of God’s promises this week. Thank Him for His salvation and ask Him to put in you a deeper hunger and thirst for His righteousness!
5. Write out Matthew 5:1-12 and work on memorizing the passage.