

SATISFACTION GUARANTEED

Matthew 5:6

August 10, 2008 Sunday am

INTRODUCTION

- A. The Super Bowl is the second largest food consumption day of the year, right after Thanksgiving.
 1. Actually, its not a whole day, but only four hours.
 2. What does America devour in that short time?
 - a. 4 million pounds of pop corn.
 - b. 9 million pounds of tortilla chips.
 - c. 12 million pounds of potato chips.
 - d. 13 million pounds of guacamole—"holy guacamole".
- B. We not only eat to excess, though, we also live to excess. But to no avail, few of us are ever really satisfied with our lives.
 1. Recently it was reported that 80% of the Chinese are satisfied with their lives.
 2. However, only 20% of Americans are.
- C. Every generation has its own song to express their dissatisfaction with their lives.
 1. Senior Adults have Peggy Lee's "Is that all there is?"
 2. Baby Boomers have Bruce Springsteen's "Everybody's got a hungry heart."
 3. Baby Buster's have the Rolling Stones' "I can't get no satisfaction".
- D. All people sense what Jesus told Satan in Matthew 4:4 "Man does not live by bread alone".
 1. This is what Jesus meant in Matthew 5:6.
 2. Yet we have drunk from several earthly wells in an attempt to find satisfaction. What kind of wells?

I. THREE KINDS OF EARTHLY WELLS.

- A. There's the well of pleasure.
 1. In his book, *The Applause of Heaven*, Max Lucado says, "**False fountains pacify our cravings with sugary swallows of pleasure. But there comes a time when pleasure doesn't satisfy. There comes a dark hour in every life when the world caves in and we are left trapped in the rubble of reality parched and dying.**"
 2. Have you ever been there? Like the Prodigal Son have you ever drunk from the well of pleasure in any of its forms only to find yourself still just as thirsty as before? As exciting as it's "water" can appear, it still doesn't satisfy our thirst does it? It always leaves us in the pig troughs of life yearning for more.
 3. King Solomon echoes this truth.
Ecclesiastes 6:7 All man's efforts are for his mouth, yet his appetite is never satisfied.
- B. There's the well of performance.
 1. "America's Got Talent" is the biggest star search program in the history of television. Thousands of singers, sword swallows and exotic dancers are all trying to win fame and fortune through their performance. In the program's final episode of the season, though, only one person wins the million dollars and the Hollywood contract. All the rest return to their unfulfilled lives of obscurity.
 2. Solomon again confirms this reality.
Ecclesiastes 2:22-23 ²² What does a man get for all the toil and anxious striving with which he labors under the sun? ²³ All his days his work is pain and grief; even at night his mind does not rest. This too is meaningless.
- C. There's the well of possessions.
 1. Television commercials promise "Satisfaction Guaranteed", but they never deliver.
 2. Has owning a new IPHONE, IPOD, Blackberry, car or house, ever brought you lasting fulfillment?

3. Listen again to Solomon.
Ecclesiastes 5:10-11 ¹⁰Whoever loves money never has money enough; whoever loves wealth is never satisfied with his income. This too is meaningless. ¹¹As goods increase, so do those who consume them. And what benefit are they to the owner except to feast his eyes on them?
4. Lucado sums up our vain attempts to find satisfaction by drinking from the world's wells by saying, **"We are very thirsty, not for fame, possession, passion or romance. We've drunk from those pools. They are salt water in the desert. They don't quench, they kill. No, we're thirsty for a clean conscience. We crave a clean slate. We yearn for a fresh start. The problem is the treasures of earth don't satisfy. The promise is the treasures of heaven do."**

II. THIS IS THE PROMISE OF HEAVEN: REAL SATISFACTION.

- A. This is what Jesus meant by "righteousness"—a right relationship with God. That's where satisfaction is found.
- B. How can we get this satisfaction?
 1. First, we must desire all of God there is.
 - a. The usual Greek word used for hunger and thirst means to be hungry for a little bit of something or thirsty for a small amount of something. Its called the "Genitive" case.
 - b. Jesus used the "Accusative" case, however. It means to be hungry for the whole thing not just a part of it. (i. e. to want the whole loaf of bread, not just a few pieces). Not just a taste of something but to be filled completely with it.
 - c. Too many of us are settling for just a taste of God, a "godly appetizer". But if we want to be satisfied we must desire all of God, not just part of him.
 2. Second, our desire for God must be intense.
 - a. The Greek word for hunger means to be ravenous or starving, not just ready for dinner.
 - b. Likewise, the Greek word for thirst means to have an insatiable or desperate thirst.
 - c. In his book, *The Last Crusade*, Major V. Gilbert talks about part of the British liberation of Palestine in World War I. He writes,

"Driving up from Beersheba, a combined force of British, Australians, and New Zealanders were pressing on the rear of the Turkish retreat over arid desert. The attack out-distanced its water-carrying camel train. Water bottles quickly emptied. The sun blazed pitilessly out of a sky where the vultures wheeled expectantly. Our heads ached, and our eyes became bloodshot and dim in the blinding glare, our tongues began to swell, our lips turned a purplish black and burst. Those who dropped out of the column were never seen again, but the desperate force battled on to Sheria. You see, there were wells at Sheria, and we knew if we had been unable to take that place by nightfall, thousands of us would have died of thirst. So, we fought that day as men fight for their lives and we were victorious. Entering Sheria station on the heels of the retreating Turks, the first objects which met our view were the great stone cisterns full of cold, clear, drinking water. We lined up in formation and waited our turn to drink. First the sick and wounded, then unit by unit. It took four hours before the last man was able to drink. Standing there at attention in that blazing heat all that time we could hear the water, smell it. I believe that we all learned our first real Bible lesson on that march from Beersheba to the Sheria wells. If such were our thirst for God, for righteousness, for His will in our life, a consuming, all-embracing preoccupying desire, how rich the fruits of the Spirit would be."

- d. The Psalmist expressed it like this...
Psalms 42:1-2 ¹ As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. ² My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?
- 3. Third, we must realize that our desire for God can only be satisfied by Jesus.
 - a. Of himself Jesus said...
John 6:35 Then Jesus declared, "I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty."
John 4:13-14 ¹³ Jesus answered, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, ¹⁴ but whoever drinks the water I give him will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give him will become in him a spring of water welling up to eternal life."
 - b. In both these verses Jesus is saying, "I'm it", "I'm the one". "I'm what you're looking for", "I can satisfy your hunger and thirst in life".

CONCLUSION

- A. Are you hungry and thirsty for something more out of life?
- B. Have you drunk from the wells of pleasure, performance, and possessions and still come up dry?
- C. Jesus is the one! He is the only one who can satisfy your hunger and thirst.
 - 1. Stop settling for a tidbit of God.
 - 2. Start intensely seeking God in your life.
 - 3. Take Jesus at his word when he says "I'm the one."