

The Fullness of Being Hungry

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.”* – Matthew 5:6

Most of us don't understand what it's like to be truly starving. To live through a famine. In Jesus' day the average working person earned enough to eat meat once a week. When Jesus taught us to pray, “Give us, today, our daily bread” it was a literal prayer.

Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness:

1. It's a matter of desire.

*“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God.
My soul thirsts for God, for the living God.”* – Psalm 42:1,2

- There's no end to the appetites we have today.
- To “*hunger and thirst for righteousness*” means to desire to do what's right before God, and a desire for God Himself.
- We say that we'd like to get to know God better. How much?
 - What would I do to get to know God better?

2. It's a matter of degree.

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

- What caused the early Christians to meet nightly, to risk their jobs and even their lives?
- The Beatitude says literally, “*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for all that's right*” — not just some of God and what's right before Him.
- We treat the Christian life like a buffet. We just take what we want.
 - Do I thirst for God like someone walking in a desert?

God Promises Fulfillment:

- The people who are going to be fulfilled in life are those who, more than anything else, have a desire to have all God wants for them.

1. Unfulfilled People —

- When I desire the wrong things, the more I get to fill my appetites and desires, the less satisfied I am, and the more I want.
- Worldly things I desire so deeply *today* aren't enough *tomorrow*.

2. Fulfilled People —

- The key to fulfillment: Blessed are those who have an intense desire for God — the God who doesn't change. They will be filled!
- Don't settle for seeking happiness — seek blessedness.
- Don't settle for seeking fulfillment — seek God.
- Don't seek to be perfect — seek to develop your appetite for God!

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Application Project:

1. Do people in my world have difficulty feeling fulfilled or satisfied? If so, why?
2. In my typical week, what works against having a strong desire for God?
3. What can I do to develop a stronger desire for God and His righteous ways?
4. TARGET: One step I can take this week to develop my appetite for God is...

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