

Devotions with Matt

May 1, 2020

THE HUNGRY AND THIRSTY

"I am hungry for it." "I want it so bad I can almost taste it." Those are phrases used by people who have a great desire for something. People often apply the word hunger to athletes who want to make it to the pros. They use it for business men and women who seek to become a CEO or president of a large corporation. The hungry drive themselves to work harder than their competition. They push themselves in studying everything about their desired profession. They practice longer and harder than most others. They have a hunger to meet a driving desire.

What is your greatest desire? What are you most hungry for in this life? What vision of the future do you thirst for the most? Many answer that question through the lens of a profession, a sum of money, a relationship, a destination or a health standpoint. When Jesus says in Matthew 5 "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst" He is not necessarily discounting any of those things, He is pointing out something far greater than what the world has to offer. He says that our greatest desire, our greatest thirst should be for His righteousness.

Righteousness is often thought of as a high moral standard. It can, and does in part, mean that. It does refer to salvation in that we can never earn this righteousness in our own power. It is bestowed upon us through the shed blood of Jesus on the cross. But in seeking His righteousness Jesus is saying that we are to seek to be in a right relationship with our Creator. It means that we desire what God desires. It means a diminishing desire to sin and an increasing desire to love God and love others. It means a desire to walk in obedience to His commands. To hunger and thirst for righteousness means having a great desire to be with God.

Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, to be with God, will be filled. That is the promise we have. Anything else we seek we may find in this life, but nothing will compare to what God is offering. An athlete might make it to the pros. A business man or woman may make it to be a CEO, but the promise of fulfillment is not there. Whatever you are seeking, other than God, may not be a bad thing, but it can never fill your heart and your soul. Only God can do that. C.S. Lewis once said, "If I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world."

God says that if we seek Him with all of our heart we will find Him. And when we find Him what is most missing about us will be restored- our broken relationship with Him. And when that relationship is restored, we will be filled.

Our greatest desire in life is to be made whole. It is to become who we were created to be. It is a desire to find our true identity, reach our greatest potential and meet our destiny. We are restless until we do. Only those things can become true when we meet our Maker, our Savior and our Lord. To hunger and thirst for anything and anyone else will not meet our greatest hunger or thirst. They cannot. Only God can. Let us hunger and thirst for Him above all else. And He will fill you.

**But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.
Matthew 6:33**

