

THE DELICIOUS HUNGER

Int.

1. Aim: To explain the verse and then some of the blessings for the hungry.
2. Mt. 5:6
 - a. Context - sermon on the mount, beatitudes.
 - b. Setting:
 - i. Preacher: Jesus the Christ, the Son of man, also the Son of God, the prince of all preachers.
 - ii. Pulpit: The mountain, it was near the city of Capernaum and the Sea of Galilee -- a natural amphitheater between two humps or horns of the mountain.
 - iii. Audience: the disciples
 - iv. Time: about 28 A.D.
3. Other translations
 - a. RSV "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."
 - b. NIV "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
 - c. SEB "People who are hungry and thirsty for what is right are happy, because they will be filled."
 - d. BBE "Happy are those whose heart's desire is for righteousness, for they will have their desire." Paraphrase
4. Lk. 6:21 "Blessed are ye that hunger now: for ye shall be filled."
5. Plan of lesson: [1] The meaning of the verse [2] Implications of the verse
[3] The Blessings

Discussion

I. THE MEANING

A. Blessed

1. Happy - fortunate, well off = Latin Word - Beatus - a state of utmost bliss
2. From this we get our word Beatitudes

B. Hunger and Thirst

1. Desires that are natural
2. Intense and strong desires -- considered to be the strongest drives of man
3. Craving - a strong longing desire that cannot be satisfied until it has obtained its object.

C. After Righteousness

1. Not for wealth, honor, or worldly fame. In 100 years from now it will not matter about power, wealth, honor, education, social standing, political status, or the praises of men.
2. The truly successful person will hunger and thirst after righteousness.
 - a. Righteousness is the condition which is acceptable to God.
 - b. It involves purity of life, and correctness in thinking, feeling and actions.
 - c. RIGHT DOING or DOING RIGHT
3. Every man will eventually be what his soul craves most to be. - Pro. 23:7

D. They shall be filled

1. Not just partly filled, but completely satisfied
2. They will be filled with that for which they hunger and thirst
 - a. Peace
 - b. Righteousness

II. IMPLICATIONS OF THIS VERSE

A. Implies that we have a choice

1. Hungering and thirsting after righteousness is an attitude over which we have control.
2. God does not force us to be obedient
3. If we are weak or dead spiritually we are responsible
 - a. God made us to have a longing for Heaven and to seek God - Ecl. 12:13
 - b. Paul said that God made man to "seek the Lord" Acts 17:27 - Mars Hill
4. Acts 10:34-35
5. "Mary hath chosen that good part, which shall not be taken away from her." Lk. 10:42
6. Cannot inject the gospel into anyone

B. Implies that our desires are important. - they reveal our character

1. There is evil in the appetite for evil;
2. There is grace in the desire for grace
3. There is lowliness in the longing for lowliness
4. There is purity in the craving for purity.
5. There is righteousness in the craving for righteousness
6. Every person will eventually be what their soul craves most to be! - Pro.. 23:7

C. Implies the need for Complete righteousness

1. The way these words are arranged in Greek it says literally... "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for the whole of righteousness, for complete righteousness..."

2. People do not do this:
 - a. A man may be a very good man - be honest, good morals, but if someone comes to him for help he will refuse because of selfishness.
 - b. Or a man may be a drunkard, gambler, and use bad language, but when anyone is in trouble he would give him the last penny out of his pocket.
3. This beatitude says it is not enough to be satisfied with a partial goodness. -

HYPOCRISY

- a. Blessed is the man who hungers and thirsts for the goodness which is total.
- b. The literal translation would read: "O the bliss of the man who longs for total righteousness as a starving man longs for food, and a man perishing of thirst longs for water, for that man will be truly satisfied!"

III. THE BLESSINGS OF HAVING A DELICIOUS HUNGER

A. BE FILLED

1. Mt. 5:6
2. This is the only desire that can be truly and finally satisfied !
 - a. All of the appetites of the flesh can be satisfied only for the moment.
 - b. The drunkard never satisfies his thirst. He dies still unsatisfied, wanting another drink.
 - c. Those who hunger for physical worldly things shall never be satisfied.
3. God alone can fill our craving.
 - a. Ps. 107:9 "For he satisfieth the longing soul and filleth the hungry soul with goodness."
 - b. Christ bids us come and drink of the full cup of God's righteousness.

- c. Jn. 6:35, "And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst." [7:37 - 4:13-15]
- 4. He longs to give to us as he has given himself for us.
 - a. He stands at the door and knocks.
 - b. He only asks us to open. [Rev. 3:20]
- 5. We may hunger after many things and never get them.
 - a. But those who hunger and thirst after righteousness cannot fail to obtain the object of their desires.
 - b. Christ pledged - "They shall be filled."

B. GROWTH

- 1. One of the great blessings of a delicious hunger is growth
 - a. I Pet. 2:2 --- a desire for the pure word of God will make us grow.
 - b. As we grow we become stronger.
 - c. Desire= appetite
- 2. A good appetite is a sign of growth - continual growth through life
 - a. It indicates life and health
 - b. It assures one of a growing condition.
 - c. It is a source of real enjoyment
- 3. When you lose your physical appetite you will begin to lose weight and stop growing.
- 4. When you lose your spiritual appetite you will begin to lose heart.
 - a. That is when you quit growing

b. This will cause lukewarmness and absenteeism. You soon fail to pray, read, and study the scriptures, attend Bible classes, and worship with the saints.

5. A blessing of the delicious hunger is continued growth!

C. Study

1. A healthy hunger for righteousness will bless us with the desire for study.

2. Acts 17:11

a. Bereans

b. Make sure it is good

c. You can know the truth - Jn. 8:32

3. Study of God's word is of great benefit to us.

Conclusion

1. Rm. 8:6

a. Carnally minded = death

b. Spiritually minded = life and peace

2. If you desire to be righteous, there is no power on earth that can keep you from becoming righteous.

3. If you are not righteous, it is because your desire to become righteous is not strong or constant.

4. How much do you want righteousness?

a. As much as a starving man wants food.

b. As much as a man dying of thirst wants water.

c. The hunger must continue throughout life.

5. Here is an example of a man who had a delicious hunger that we should all imitate
 - a. Acts 8:26-39
 - b. Eunuch of Ethiopia
 - c. He searched the scriptures diligently
 - d. He wanted to learn because he was hungering and thirsting after righteousness.
 - e. Therefore when he was taught he obeyed immediately.

6. Are your hungry?
 - a. Obey gospel
 - b. Restored

7. All sincere seekers of truth and righteousness will learn what God requires of them. Jn. 7:17 "If any man will do his will, he shall know of the doctrine, whether it be of God, or whether I speak of myself."

8. Mt. 11:28-30

9. Matt. 5:6

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