

BLESSED ARE THOSE...HUNGERING AND THIRSTING

By Keith Greer

"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled"
{Matthew 5:6}

In the Sermon on the Mount, in previewing and proclaiming the kingdom of heaven, Jesus gives a list of attitudes one must attain to be a fit **"citizen"** in this kingdom. For a few moments I would like to discuss the fourth one, **"hungering and thirsting after righteousness"**.

First, what type of hunger and thirsting is this? Spiritual of course. The kingdom of heaven is a spiritual kingdom. Listen to John as he records the words of Jesus during His public ministry.

"But whoever drinks of the water that I shall give him will never thirst. But the water that I shall give him will become in him a fountain of water springing up into everlasting life." {John 4:14}

"Do not labor for the food which perishes, but for the food which endures to everlasting life, which the Son of Man will give you, because God the Father has set His seal on Him." {John 6:27}

"I am the living bread which came down from heaven. If anyone eats of this bread, he will live forever; and the bread that I shall give is My flesh, which I shall give for the life of the world." {John 6:51}

"It is the Spirit who gives life; the flesh profits nothing. The words that I speak to you are spirit, and they are life." {John 6:63}

"He who rejects Me, and does not receive My words, has that which judges him; the word that I have spoken will judge him in the last day." {John 12:48}

All these passages clearly teach that the words of Christ are the spiritual food we need to be "hungering and thirsting" after. How did Jesus overcome Satan in the wilderness?

"But He answered and said, 'It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God' "{Matthew 4:4} God's word was His weapon to defeat the Adversary! Still our only weapon today!

How does one fulfill this beatitude? First, we must have an **"intense craving, and desire for the word of God"**. Why?

"For I am not ashamed of the gospel of Christ, for it is the power of God to salvation for everyone who believes, for the Jew first and also for the Greek. For in it the righteousness of God is revealed from faith to faith; as it is written, 'The just shall live by faith'." {Romans 1: 16, 17} God's word is His power to save us and reveal His righteousness unto us.

Have you ever taught a Bible class to a friend, neighbor, or loved one. You know they understand where they stand before God, what they must do to be saved, and still they do not respond. Why? Simple, no desire! There is no intense craving in their lives for the need to obey the gospel. Desire is missing.

Ever wonder, like I have for many years, why some brethren never seem to grow in Bible knowledge? Why they never have Bible lessons prepared? Dislike teaching classes? Simple, they have no desire for the "word of God" in their lives.

How does one develop a spiritual appetite for God's righteousness? It can never happen until one falls in love with the Bible. We must understand the value and power of God's book. It has the answers to all the questions of life: **Where did I come from? Why am I here? Where am I going?**

Do you desire to know more? If not, can God truly bless you? ***