



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

Sermon: **Stay Hungry: The Blessed Appetite (Matthew 5:6)**

Date: **May 13, 2018**

As we've been studying the Beatitudes together, we've been learning about the blessed state. In the Beatitudes, Jesus gives us several descriptions of a life lived that is truly blessed. So far, we've learned that blessed people are poor in spirit. They understand that they are deserving of nothing. Further, blessed people are ones who mourn. They mourn over their own sin, over the sins of others, and over the effects of sin in our world. Last week, we saw that blessed people are meek. They have a quiet trust in God, especially when the wicked prosper and the righteous suffer. This week, we will study the fourth Beatitude: "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied," (Matthew 5:6). We look to many things in this world for satisfaction, but Jesus tells us that the only thing that will truly satisfy our souls is righteousness. In this week's study, we will learn what it truly means to hunger and thirst after righteousness.

What you need for this study: Bible, Notebook, Pen

Individual Bible Study

1. Please read Matthew 5:6 and ensure that you've listened to Sunday's sermon.
 - a. Review: What are the Beatitudes?
 - b. Review: What does it mean to be "blessed"? How should we define this word?
 - c. Read Genesis 3. How were Eve's actions determined by her appetite? What was the result for Eve?
 - d. Read Matthew 4:1-11. How were Jesus' actions determined by his appetite? What was the result for Jesus? What was the difference between Eve and Jesus?
 - e. Define what it means to hunger and thirst for righteousness.
 - f. Read Psalm 119:103. What are some ways the verse describes an appetite for righteousness?



SMALL GROUP CURRICULUM

- g. What are we to think when we see the wicked appearing to be satisfied? How does the Gospel speak to this?
- h. How can someone assess whether they are hungering and thirsting for righteousness? What kinds of questions can they ask themselves to help discern this? What sorts of character traits are true of the person who hungers and thirsts for righteousness?
- i. What does it mean to “be satisfied”?
- j. Consider the previous three characteristics of the blessed life: (1) poverty of spirit and (2) mourning (3) meekness. How might being poor in spirit, mourning over sin, meekness and its effects lead to a hunger and thirst for righteousness?

Group Discussion Questions

1. How did the Holy Spirit speak to you through the sermon and the Bible study this week?
2. What are some things you look to for satisfaction other than Jesus? Why do you look to these things for satisfaction?
3. Why is it important to hunger and thirst for righteousness? What happens when we don't?
4. How can we practically hunger and thirst for righteousness each day? What does this look like?
5. How does the promise of satisfaction motivate you to pursue righteousness?