

SPIRITUAL HUNGER

SEPTEMBER 26, 2018

MATTHEW 5:6

Jesus captures the attention of His listeners by using the Word blessed. The Greek word means happy, fortunate, well off and spiritually prosperous. He knew people were looking for these things then, as they are now. He continues by explaining how to get what they desired. In this fourth beatitude, He uses two demanding human appetites to explain how they could get what they desired – hunger and thirst.

- Hunger – (Greek) A desperate craving for food that a starving person possesses. A hunger that makes one desperate.
- Thirst - (Greek) A need for water that is painful, as when one is dehydrated and parched.

There is a certain desperation that accompanies hunger and thirst.

- A starving man will steal for food, or eat out of a garbage can.
- A drug addict will steal, even kill to satisfy his need.
- An alcoholic will spend his entire pay to satisfy his thirst.
- A gambler will lose his family, house or business to satisfy his longing to win.

GOOD AND BAD APPETITES

1. Bad appetites.

- A. Lucifer was hungry for a **POSITION** that wasn't his to have. His desperation moved him to rebel against God.
- B. Nebuchadnezzar was hungry for **PRAISE**.
- C. The rich fool was hungry for **POSSESSIONS**. Many are hungry for worldly things. **1 JOHN 2:15-17**

2. Good appetites.

- A. God's presence. **PSALMS 42:1**
- B. God's power and glory. **PSALMS 63:1-2, PHILIPPIANS 3:10-11**
- C. For deliverance. **EXODUS 2:23-25** – They got desperate in their cry for God's help.
- D. After righteousness. **MATTHEW 5:6**

HOW TO PROMOTE SPIRITUAL HUNGER

1. Get a taste for the goodness of God. **PSALMS 34:8**

- A. In the natural, tasting something good promotes wanting more.

2. Don't fill up on junk food. **PROVERBS 27:7 (NLT)**

- A. In the natural, once stuffed, even our favorite meal becomes less appealing.
- B. We live in a society with plenty to offer. Things that aren't sin, but keep us too occupied to nurture our walk with God.

3. Associate with hungry people. **HEBREWS 10:24-25**

- A. If we associate with those that have no appetite for God, they can influence us to be satisfied with mediocrity.
- B. By associating with those who are hungry for God, they will influence us not to be satisfied with anything less than being filled with God's fullness.

4. Constantly feed on the right diet.

- A. The Word. **MATTHEW 4:4**
- B. The Spirit. **JOHN 7:37-39**

THE BLESSING

1. Perfect satisfaction. **MATTHEW 5:6**

- A. Filled – (Greek) A term used to describe the fattening of cattle until perfectly satisfied.

2. We'll be filled with all Jesus has to offer.

- A. **JOHN 4:14, 6:35**
- B. **PSALMS 107:9**
- C. **PSALMS 34:10**