

Hungering and Thirsting for God Matthew 5:6

You've come to church today... Are you hungry... thirsty? What for?

I. To be Hungry and Thirsty...

Hunger and thirst are the body's way of telling us that we are "empty", that our body needs nourishment, sustenance. Our natural response to physical hunger and thirst is to seek food and water to satisfy our need. Jesus is putting these terms into the _____, however... Should that mean something to us?

In the typical church there seems to be a prevailing attitude that has been referred to as _____. (Matt. 15:8) What is it in life that is most important to you? Is it Jesus? Is it really? Is it just possible that you have come to take God for granted?

A recent study indicates that we stop thinking about the lyrics of a song after we've heard it _____. Regardless of whether it is a timeless hymn, a cutting edge composition, or a postmodern remix, our mind is "prone to wander" from the songs intent. Whether it is music, reading the Word, prayer, ministry, whatever... are you really worshipping God?

True Worship is _____ on Christ, _____ on Christ, and is _____ to Christ and is offered according to His _____ and _____ (John 4:23-24; Mark 12:30; also c.f. Ps. 42:1-2; 63:1; and 73:25)

When was the last time, if ever, you really felt deep inside as David wrote, "*I was glad when they said unto me, let us go into the house of the Lord*" (Psalm 122:1)?

II. Hungering and Thirsting for Righteousness...

"But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you." (Matt. 6:33) Why hunger and thirst for righteousness, why seek it "first" as in priority, importance?

To be righteous is to have salvation, to be forgiven of sin and given the promise of eternal life. Even more; it is to be holy, to be set-apart, and to be a child of God. It means to walk with the Lord with all that we are, to be completely surrendered to God.

As believers we are _____, but are we in our behavior, our thoughts, our attitudes, and our words? Would you characterize _____ with the Lord as one of _____? What happens if it isn't?

III. Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness Will be Filled!

Filled with what? What is the blessing that Jesus is talking about here?! *"But when the Holy Spirit controls our lives, he will produce this kind of fruit in us: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. Here there is no conflict with the law."* (Galatians 5:22-23 NLT) Is your life marked by these qualities... by this fruit?

"To know the love of Christ which passes knowledge; that you may be filled with all the fullness of God." (Eph. 3:19) Also c.f. (Eph. 5:18 and Gal. 5:25)

Conclusion and Application:

"For the eyes of the LORD run to and fro throughout the whole earth, to show Himself strong on behalf of those whose heart is loyal to Him. In this you have done foolishly; therefore from now on you shall have wars." (2 Chronicles 16:9)

Are you truly blessed? Does God's gaze rest upon you, your family? Can it be said that your heart is truly loyal to Him... that it belongs completely to Him? Do you hunger and thirst after God and His righteousness? The operative word that helps us to find God's fullness is _____. _____ your all to your Savior, and may He always be your Lord.