

What do you long after/for?

Introduction:

This morning we are going to continue our series in the Sermon on the Mount!

For the past number of Sundays we have been going through the Beatitudes that Jesus shares - one Beatitude at a time!!!

So far we have looked:
Blessed are the poor in spirit
Blessed are they that mourn
Blessed are the meek

And this week we move on to look at another Beatitude that Jesus shares - and just like the first 3 - it is packed full with:

Truth
Meaning
Challenge!

And I hope that's what we are all here for today:

TO ENCOUNTER TRUTH
TO EXTRACT MEANING
TO EXPECT CHALLENGE

After all that is what God's word is there for - TO SHOW US THE TRUTH!!
And to challenge our life in sight of that truth!!

AND EVEN AS WE HAVE LOOKED AT THE FIRST FEW BEATITUDES THERE HAVE BEEN VERY CLEAR CHALLENGES THAT GOD HAS GIVEN US FROM THESE TRUTHS:

Blessed are the poor in spirit - ARE WE LIVING LIVES OF HUMILITY?

Blessed are they that mourn - DO WE REALISE THAT GOD DOES MUCH OF HIS GREATEST WORK THROUGH THE HARDEST TIMES IN OUR LIFE?

Blessed are the meek - ARE WE LIVING A LIFE UNDER THE CONTROL OF GOD AND HAVE WE PASSED THE REINS OF OUR LIFE TO HIM?

See what I mean - God's Word is truth!
God's Word is challenging!

And in each of the Beatitudes that we have studied out so far - we should leave this place asking ourselves - What can I address in my life?

Is there anything I need to change?

Is there something I need to look at in the way I'm living?

Is there a change in priority needed?

Am I doing what God asks of me in His Word?

AND I'LL BE HONEST - EVERY SUNDAY - GOD USES HIS WORD TO SPEAK TO ME!

To challenge me!

To work on me!

To help me!

AND I PRAY THAT YOU ARE HERE TODAY - Desiring that God do the same in your life!!

AT THE END OF THIS MESSAGE - And many more in the future at Chelsea Church - Time permitting I want to take time to open up the altar at the front here for people to come forward, get

on their knees before God, and open up their lives to the truths and challenges He shares from His Word!!!

YOU KNOW WHAT HAPPENS AT ALTARS BIBLICALLY SPEAKING?

Things die!

Things are sacrificed

And maybe this morning:

There is something in your life that needs to change, needs to go, needs to die!

We come to the altar whenever God has challenged us of a need to respond to the preaching of His Word!

That something in my life, something that I have held onto of the 'old man' mentality needs to die!

AND THAT I NEED TO APPLY THE TRUTHS OF TRUE, SPIRITUAL LIVING FROM GOD'S WORD TO MY LIFE!!!

All that being said - It is vitally important that we as a church build a mentality within ourselves of not just hearing God's Word:

BUT RESPONDING AND APPLYING GOD'S WORD TO OUR LIVES PERSONALLY!

To let God search your heart!

To let God challenge you of a need to change to be more like Jesus!!!

AND I TRULY BELIEVE THERE ARE FEW PASSAGES THAT ARE MORE CHALLENGING THAN THE BEATITUDES!!!

And each and every week - I get up here and preach on these Beatitudes knowing that God is still working on my heart, challenging me of a need to daily live the truths we have been preaching!!!

ALL THAT BEING SAID - This mornings message - Jesus shares a very pointed and important challenge for each of us!!!

JESUS TELLS US THIS MORNING IN MATTHEW 5:6:

Matthew 5:6 - *'Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.'*

Hunger and thirst after righteousness!!

FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED!!!

I want to preach a message this morning entitled:

WHAT DO YOU LONG FOR?

We have before us this morning in Matthew 5:6 a very vivid illustration!!

A VERY IMPORTANT METAPHORICAL PICTURE THAT JESUS SHARES WITH US!!

Let me ask you this:

How's your diet been going this week?

Have you eaten well?

Have you had enough to drink?

EVERYONE HERE WELL FED AND WATERED?

And you say to me - If this preacher would ever hurry up and finish I could go home and have something to eat and drink - **I KNOW WE WILL GET ON WITH IT!!**

I'm gonna make a few statements here and see if you have said any of them, or recognise them:

I'm starving
I'm parched
I'm soo hungry
I'm all rumbly in my tumbly
I could eat a horse

ALL OF US HAVE USED THOSE PHRASES BEFORE RIGHT?

JESUS USES THIS VIVID METAPHORICAL PICTURE OF 'HUNGER' AND 'THIRST' WHENEVER IT COMES TO SPIRITUAL THINGS!!!

Matthew 5:6 - *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

Jesus tells us - the happy people in God's Kingdom and from God's perspective are those who: HUNGER AND THIRST - After righteousness!! We will get to that in a little bit!!!

And His promise to those who do this is massive!!

THAT THEY WILL BE FILLED!!

And we are going to look at the fullness of the meaning behind that word a little later in the message!!!

BUT BY THE END OF THE MESSAGE YOU WOULD ALL AGREE UNANIMOUSLY THAT WE DESIRE AND LONG TO BE 'FILLED' WHENEVER IT COMES TO OUR SPIRITUAL WALK AND CHRISTIAN LIFE!!!

There are 4 key words here in this verse that we are going to gradually work through as we go on with the message:

HUNGER

THIRST

RIGHTEOUSNESS

FILLED

And so as we go through these key words and draw out the fullness of their meaning - it will help us understand the whole picture Jesus is sharing here in Matthew 5:6!!!

So let's get stuck in with the first 2 of these words:

Matthew 5:6 - *Blessed are they which do **hunger** and **thirst** after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

HUNGER

THIRST

Like I mentioned at the start of the message - these are 2 words that we understand!!

THEY ARE EASY FOR US TO PICTURE AND UNDERSTAND!!!

But lets be honest - many of us use these words flippantly!!!

For example:

I just ate a McDonalds for dinner but now it's 9pm and I am starving - I NEED SOMETHING TO SNACK ON!!

I just had the biggest full english breakfast I could get - but now it's dinner time and I'm starving!!

I just ran for 5 minutes and I am parched, I am so thirsty!!

I'm so hungry I could eat a cow
I'm so thirsty I could drink an ocean!!

AND SO IT GOES ON!
We all express our hunger and thirst regularly!!!

Often I come home from dinner and ask Julia - Whats for dinner? I'm starving!!

But let's be honest - whenever we think of what true hunger looks like - I don't think I could honestly say that I have ever been starving in my life!!!

THE CLOSEST THAT I COULD POSSIBLY SAY I GET TO THAT IS IF I CHOOSE TO FAST FOR A DAY!!

But - We are so blessed with access and availability to food - that most of us could honestly say that we don't know what it feels like to not be able to eat food, even for a day!!!

And likewise with drink:

We have water on tap!

We have convenience stores all around us where we can buy any of 100's of different types of drink!!!

SO AGAIN - NONE OF US HERE COULD PROBABLY SAY - 'I know what it feels like to be thirsty and not have access to something to drink' - EVEN FOR A DAY!!!

We come to our picture and it is important that we know the depth behind the words that Jesus is using here in this particular Beatitude!!

IS JESUS USING HUNGER IN THE SENSE OF - Its been 2 hours since I last ate?

IS JESUS USING THIRST LIKE - I just woke up and my mouth is so dry - I need something to drink?

I THINK YOU AND I BOTH KNOW THE ANSWER TO THAT ALREADY!!!

LET'S LOOK FIRST OF ALL AT THE WORD:

a. Hunger

'Peinao' = To hunger, to be famished absolutely, starving

And again - we throw around those words - famished, starving, absolutely!!

SO MAYBE IT WOULD BE MORE HELPFUL FOR YOU TO KNOW OTHER PLACES THIS SAME WORD IS USED IN THE BIBLE!!!

One example in particular helped me understand the fullness of the word used here by Jesus in Matthew 5:6!!

IF YOU TURN WITH ME TO Matthew 4:

Matthew 4:1-2 - *Then was Jesus led up of the Spirit into the wilderness to be tempted of the devil. And when he had fasted forty days and forty nights, he was afterward an hungred.*

Hungred - same word used for 'hungry' in Matthew 5:6!!!

And notice the context in which it is used!

IN MATTHEW 4 - JESUS DEPARTS INTO THE WILDERNESS!

He fasts for 40 days and 40 nights!!

40 DAYS WITHOUT FOOD!

And notice afterwards - naturally it says - *'he was afterward an hungred'*

NOW THAT GIVES US A BETTER IDEA OF WHAT THE WORD 'HUNGRY' REALLY MEANS!!!

We can understand going 40 minutes without food!

Maybe even 40 hours at an extreme push - but even after that it would bring us to our idea of 'hungry'!!

BUT 40 DAYS?

That is intense!

40 days without food?

40 days fasting?

40 days without anything to eat?

NOW THAT TRULY WOULD BE - HUNGER!!!

There would be an intense, and desperate need for food after that kind of an experience!!

AND IT IS RIGHT THERE IN MATTHEW 4:1-2 THAT WE FIND THE WORD USED FOR 'HUNGER' THAT WE FIND IN OUR BEATITUDE!!!

And so the hunger that Jesus is speaking of figuratively in Matthew 5:6 isn't a casual desire for, or a craving that needs to be met!!!

IT IS TRUE HUNGER!

IT IS INTENSE!

IT WOULD A DESPERATION TO FIND SOMETHING TO SATISFY THAT HUNGER!

That is the idea and picture Jesus shares in this Beatitude!!!

So that is - Hunger!

What about:

b. Thirst

As we think about the word used here for thirst - it is also used in many other places in the Bible!!!

AND AGAIN - I WANT TO JUST BRING ONE PARTICULAR PASSAGE WHERE THE SAME WORD IS USED TO YOUR ATTENTION!!!

And this passage shows us the reality of the depth and intensity behind this word!!

John 19:28 - *After this, Jesus knowing that all things were now accomplished, that the scripture might be fulfilled, saith, I thirst.*

I THIRST!

I'm sure you all know the context behind the words of Jesus here in John 19!!!

JESUS IS RIGHT AT THE END OF HIS EARTHY LIFE!!!

HE IS ON THE CROSS AT CALVARY!

And in John 19:30 - 2 verses later he dies!!

JESUS HAS FACED AN INCREDIBLE AMOUNT OF AGONY THIS DAY:

Tortured by the Soldiers

Lost a lot of blood and fluids from the scourging
Crown of thorns
Nails in hands and feet
And much much more!!

AND IT IS IN THIS BEATEN, BATTERED, WEARY, WEAKENED STATE - RIGHT AT THE POINT OF DEATH, HAVING LOST MOST OF HIS STRENGTH AND MUCH OF HIS BLOOD AND BODY FLUIDS - Jesus utters the statement - *'I thirst'*

This wasn't the kind of thirsty we think about!!
The kind of thirst we experience waking up first thing in the morning
The kind of thirst that we experience after a work out or sports match!!

NO THIS IS A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT PICTURE!!!
Again we sense the same as we did when the Bible used the word 'hungred':

THERE IS AN INTENSITY BEHIND IT
A LONGING
A GREAT NEED
A DESPERATION!!

And this is the word that Jesus uses in Matthew 5:6 - *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness!!!*

AND SO WE COME BACK TO OUR TEXT!!!

We think back to our Beatitude:
WE HAVE LOOKED AT HUNGER
WE HAVE LOOKED AT THIRST!!

Now it is time to move on to the next portion of the verse - WHICH BEGS US A QUESTION:

What do you long for?
What are you desperate for?
What do you have a great need for?
What do you intensely desire?

BECAUSE THAT IS THE IDEA BEHIND THOSE WORDS 'HUNGER' AND 'THIRST' AS JESUS PAINTS THIS METAPHORICAL PICTURE!!!

Jesus tells us what we should be hungry for!
What we should thirst after!
What we should long for!
What we need to be desperate for!
What we should have a great need for!
And an intense desire for!!!

RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!!

Matthew 5:6 - *Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

Jesus says - **Happy are they that have a desperate desire, an intense long and need for - RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!**

That is:

Living Right
Doing Right
Thinking Right
Speaking Right
SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING - RIGHTEOUS LIVING!!

A life that is completely desirous of living as Jesus lived!
Doing as Jesus did!
Acting as Jesus acted!
Being like Jesus!!!
PURSUING RIGHTEOUSNESS AS HE IS RIGHTEOUS!!!

But that brings me back to our main question that we need to answer:
What do you long for?
What are you desperate for?
What is it you hunger and thirst for?

You fill in the blank:
I hunger and thirst after _____

EVERY ONE OF US NEEDS TO BE HONEST WITH OURSELVES!
Not just some cop out Sunday School kids answer - where we say 'JESUS' before the question is even finished!!!

HONESTLY - What do you long for?
What are you desperate for?

Is it truly Jesus and His righteousness?

Or is it something else?
Maybe it's:
Worldly pleasures
Temporary things
Possessions
Position and prestige
Riches and money

I WONDER WHAT IT IS?

At this point I need to bring in our final word - **'Filled'**

Because that is the promise of Jesus here:
*Blessed are they which do **hunger** and **thirst** after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

Jesus tells us that happy are those that hunger and thirst - AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!

Why?
Because they shall be filled!!!

Filled means:
To feed and fill
To gorge ourselves
To satisfy
To have in abundance!!!

SO JESUS IS LITERALLY SAYING:

A full, satisfying, abundant relationship with me - IS AVAILABLE TO THOSE THAT HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!

That is what makes them blessed!
That is what makes them happy!!!

THOSE WORDS SOUND AWESOME RIGHT?

Words we desire to sum up our relationship with Jesus and our life as a whole:
Satisfying
Full
Abundant!!!

AND THE TRUTH OF MATTHEW 5:6 - IS THAT IT CAN BE FOUND WHEN WE HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!

When we have a deep longing for Jesus and righteousness!
WHEN WE HAVE AN INTENSE DESIRE AND DESPERATION TO PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!

And this is where again we see Jesus flip the picture!!
BECAUSE THE WORLD TRIES TO OFFER US SOLUTIONS TO FINDING:
Happiness
Fullness
Satisfaction
Abundant Living!!!

They tell us it comes:
From a full bank account
From a wealth of possessions
When you give in to your fleshly desires and wants

THAT IS WHEN THE WORLD TRIES TO TELL US WE CAN BE:
Satisfied
Full
Have abundant living!!!

But what I have noticed is that it is a false promise, that is only for a short season!!!

**A FULLNESS AND SATISFACTION AND ABUNDANCE THAT DOESN'T LAST!
IT IS ONLY TEMPORARY!!!**

That is why many in our world move from:
Girl to girl
Guy to guy
Relationship to relationship
Place to Place
House to House
Job to Job
Car to Car
Paycheck to Paycheck
Weekend to weekend
Possession to bigger possession
LOOKING FOR SATISFACTION
LOOKING FOR FULLNESS
LOOKING FOR ABUNDANT LIVING!!!

And Jesus tells us that it can't be found in - STUFF!
In worldly treasures and worldly possessions!!!

BUT SPIRITUALLY SPEAKING - IT ONLY COMES WHENEVER WE FULFIL THE PROMISES
CONDITION IN MATTHEW 5:6!!!

*Blessed are they which do **hunger** and **thirst** after righteousness: for they shall be filled.*

It comes when we have a deep longing, desperate desire for Jesus and righteousness!!!
IT IS THEN AS A CHILD OF GOD THAT WE CAN FIND A LIFE AND RELATIONSHIP WITH HIM
THAT IS:
Satisfying
Full
Abundant!!

Barclay writes:

This Beatitude is in reality a question and a challenge. In effect, it demands: 'How much do you want righteousness? Do you want it as much as a starving person wants foods, and as much as someone dying of thirst wants water? How intense is your desire for righteousness?'

AND THAT IS THE CHALLENGE FRIEND!!

Which is in effect our main question that we keep asking:

What do you long for?

Do you truly long for righteousness like those described in Barclays quote?

Because that is what Jesus is challenging us to be like!

THAT IS THE INTENSITY HE WANTS!

**THAT IS THE LEVEL OF COMMITMENT TO PURSUING RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT HE
DESIRES!!!**

And that is a challenge - which we would all honestly say today - I don't know that I already have
that depth of desire and commitment in my pursuit of Jesus and righteousness!!!

G Campbell Morgan said it so well when he wrote:

Hungering and thirsting after righteousness is divine discontent with everything unlike God. It is the thing that makes you hot, restless, angry & discontent in the presence of all the mal-administration of the affairs of men (and this world)'

WHAT G CAMPBELL IS GETTING AT IS THIS:

Truly hungering and thirsty after righteousness - **LEAVES US DISCONTENT OF EVERYTHING IN
THIS WORLD WHICH IS UNLIKE JESUS!!**

It leaves us in a place where Jesus is our focus!

Jesus is our passion

Jesus is our one desire!!!

**And in the middle of a world full of distractions - our eyes, our desire, our goal - IS FIXED
AND SET UPON JESUS CHRIST AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!**

I think about many throughout the Bible that exemplified this 'hunger' and 'thirst' for God, Jesus and
for righteousness:

Paul!!!

AN INCREDIBLE EXAMPLE OF A SINGULAR DESIRE AND PASSIONATE PURSUIT OF JESUS
AND RIGHTEOUSNESS:

Philippians 1:21 - *For to me to live is Christ, and to die is gain.*

Friends earlier I asked you to fill in your blank when I asked 'Hunger and thirst after _____',

I would say that it is likely we could ask you to fill in the blanks of Paul's statement in Philippians 1:21!!!

AND WHATEVER YOU FILLED IN MATTHEW 5:6 WITH, WILL ALSO BE WHAT YOU WOULD FILL IN PHILIPPIANS 1:21:

Hunger and thirst after _____ (Matt 5:6)
For to me to live is _____ (Philippians 1:21)

FOR PAUL - He was consumed with a passionate pursuit of Jesus!

An intense desire and longing for righteous living that would result in a full, satisfying, abundant life in Jesus Christ!!!

AND IF ANYONE FOUND THAT KIND OF LIFE IT WAS PAUL!!!

Look at his words in Philippians 3:

Philippians 3:7-14 - *But what things were gain to me, those I counted loss for Christ. Yea doubtless, and I count all things but loss for the excellency of the knowledge of Christ Jesus my Lord: for whom I have suffered the loss of all things, and do count them but dung, that I may win Christ, And be found in him, not having mine own righteousness, which is of the law, but that which is through the faith of Christ, the righteousness which is of God by faith: That I may know him, and the power of his resurrection, and the fellowship of his sufferings, being made conformable unto his death; If by any means I might attain unto the resurrection of the dead. Not as though I had already attained, either were already perfect: but I follow after, if that I may apprehend that for which also I am apprehended of Christ Jesus. Brethren, I count not myself to have apprehended: but this one thing I do, forgetting those things which are behind, and reaching forth unto those things which are before, I press toward the mark for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus.*

This was a man that longed for righteousness!

His eyes were fixed on Jesus and living a life that was right in His eyes!!!

RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF THOSE VERSES PAUL MADE AN AWESOME STATEMENT:

'That I may know Him!!!'

THAT 5 WORD STATEMENT SUMS UP THE HEART, PASSION AND DESIRE OF THE PERSON LIVING OUR MATTHEW 5:6!!!

He longed to know Jesus more!

He longed to live a life pleasing to Jesus

He intensely desired a deep, meaningful, full spiritual life - FOCUSED ENTIRELY ON JESUS CHRIST AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!!

I wonder are we like Paul?

Are there any Pauls in the room today?

Anyone here that would say with Paul:

***FOR ME TO LIVE IS CHRIST**

***WHAT THINGS WERE GAIN TO ME, THOSE I COUNTED LOSS FOR CHRIST**

***I COUNT ALL THINGS BUT LOSS FOR THE EXCELLENCY OF THE KNOWLEDGE OF CHRIST**

***THAT I MAY KNOW HIM, AND THE POWER OF HIS RESURRECTION, AND THE FELLOWSHIP OF HIS SUFFERINGS!**

***I AM APPREHENDED OF CHRIST JESUS!**

***I PRESS TOWARD THE MARK FOR THE PRIZE OF THE HIGH CALLING OF GOD IN CHRIST JESUS!!**

Is there any like that today?

Make it personal today?

Like I said - preaching should challenge you with truth and cause us to evaluate if we need to make a change:

AM I LIKE PAUL?

DO I DEEPLY DESIRE JESUS?

DO I TRULY HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS?

Friend ask yourself:

HOW IS MY SPIRITUAL APPETITE?

DO I HAVE AN INTENSE LONGING AND DESIRE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS?

IS MY DESIRE TO FEAST ON THE RICHES OF JESUS & HIS WORD EVERY DAY?

Or:

Is it just a casual craving?

A passing infatuation?

A curiosity?

FRIENDS - THAT ISN'T WHAT THIS VERSE CHALLENGES US TO DO AND BE!!!

This verse calls us to be more!

To strive to enter into a deep, rich, satisfying abundant life in Christ!!!

AND JESUS TELLS US IN MATTHEW 5:6 - It is only those that hunger and thirst after righteousness - that shall be filled!!!

AND HE ALSO TELLS US - That they are the definition of 'happiness' or 'blessedness' from God's Kingdom perspective!!!!

THIS BEATITUDE IS A CALL TO MORE!

A CHALLENGE TO GO FURTHER, HIGER AND DEEPER THAN EVER BEFORE WITH JESUS!!!
AND TO PASSIONATELY PURSUE RIGHTEOUSNESS - THAT IS - RIGHT SPIRITUAL LIVING
WITH EYES FIXED ON JESUS!!!

Maybe Paul didn't challenge you with His 'hunger' and thirst' - LOOK AT DAVIDS:

Psalms 63:1-5 - *O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: **my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee. Thus will I bless thee while I live: I will lift up my hands in thy name. **My soul shall be satisfied** as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise thee with joyful lips:***

NOTICE THE PHRASES:

My soul thirsteth for thee

My soul shall be satisfied!!

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE FIND IN MATTHEW 5:6:
Blessed are those that hunger and 'thirst' after righteousness!!!

WHAT IS THE OUTCOME?
'They shall be filled' - full, have abundance, be satisfied!

THAT IS EXACTLY WHAT WE FIND IN DAVID'S PSALM!!!

A soul that thirsted after God!
And a soul that was left satisfied!!!

WHAT AN EXAMPLE WE FIND IN KING DAVID!

A man who longed for God!
Yearned for Him!
Thirsted after Him
AND WAS ULTIMATELY SATISFIED IN HIM!!!

And for us today friends - the only way we can 'be filled' - that is to be:
Satisfied
Full
Have an abundant life
**IS WHENEVER WE TRULY HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS!
AND HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER ALMIGHTY GOD!!!**

A passionate desire and longing to know Jesus and pursue righteousness!!!

I wonder this morning:
How is your spiritual appetite?
How is your hunger?
How is your spiritual thirst?

Or as the title of our message is:
WHAT DO YOU LONG FOR?

Both Paul and David are massive challenges to me personally in my christian life to strive to be more for God and the Gospel!

THEY INSPIRE ME WITH THEIR HUNGER AND THIRST!
THEY INSPIRE ME WITH THEIR PASSION AND INTENSE LONGING AND DESIRE FOR GOD!!!

A single minded
Single focused
DESIRE FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS, AND FOR JESUS CHRIST WHO IS THE EPITOME OF
RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!

CONCLUSION

As we close - we finish this morning with the words of Jesus in the Gospels!!!

THE VERSES THAT WE ARE GOING TO CLOSE WITH PROVE THE CENTRAL POINT OF OUR MESSAGE THIS MORNING - And the key thought really for you to take away today is this:

'Jesus is the only one who can spiritually satisfy a hungry and thirsty soul'!

FRIENDS:

IT IS ONLY WHENEVER WE HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER JESUS AND RIGHTEOUSNESS THAT CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN HIM THAT WE CAN BE - FILLED!!!

That is - it is only in Jesus that we can know a:

FULL

SATISFYING

ABUNDANT LIFE!!!

Nothing else in this world can offer us that!

Nothing else in this world can give us that kind of a life!!

BUT JESUS PROMISES IN THIS BEATITUDE:

Blessed (happy) *are they that hunger and thirst* (longing, desire, passion) *for righteousness, for they shall be filled* (find full, satisfying, abundant life)

AND I CAN PROVE THAT IT IS ONLY IN JESUS THAT WE CAN FIND SATISFACTION FOR A HUNGRY AND THIRSTY SOUL:

John 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.*

JESUS PROMISES US:

I am the bread of life!

IF WE COME UNTO HIM - We will never hunger!

If we believe on Him - we will never thirst!!

WHAT IS JESUS SAYING?

He is speaking of a spiritual picture here!!!

WHAT JESUS IS LITERALLY SAYING IS:

‘I am the only one who can spiritually satisfy a hungry and thirsty soul’!

WE CANNOT FIND THIS ANYWHERE ELSE, IN ANYONE ELSE, IN ANYTHING ELSE!!!

People look everywhere and search everywhere for:

Satisfaction

A full life

An abundant and happy life!!!

They look for it in:

Possessions

People

Position and prestige

They look for it in all the things that this world tries to offer - and they tell us that it will satisfy and make us feel like we have a ‘full life’!!!!

FRIENDS I AM HERE TODAY TO TELL YOU - IT CAN ONLY BE FOUND IN JESUS!!

Happiness

Satisfaction

Fullness and abundance of life!!

ETERNAL LIFE!!

It can all only be found whenever we stop hungering and thirsting after the things of this world -
AND HUNGER AND THIRST FOR JESUS CHRIST AND RIGHTEOUSNESS WHICH CAN ONLY
BE FOUND IN HIM!!!!

I close by challenging you:

If you haven't accepted Jesus as your Saviour - maybe you have been looking everywhere else, to everybody else, in everything else trying to find satisfaction and meaning and what life is all about!!

I CAN TELL YOU TODAY - STOP LOOKING EVERYWHERE ELSE!

LOOK TO JESUS!

Turn to Him!

Place your faith and trust in Jesus Christ and what He has done for you!

HE DIED ON THE CROSS FOR YOUR SINS

HE PAID YOUR PRICE

HE TOOK YOUR PLACE!

AND HE IS THE ONLY ONE IN WHOM WE CAN FIND ETERNAL LIFE, MEANING,
SATISFACTION AND A FULL AND ABUNDANT LIFE!!

For the christian in the room today:

WHAT DO YOU LONG FOR?

Many things in this world vie for your attention, time and passion and longing!!

BUT MAY WE NEVER TAKE OUR EYES OFF JESUS!!

MAY WE TRULY THIS MORNING - HUNGER AND THIRST AFTER RIGHTEOUSNESS!!

With eyes fixed on Jesus Christ!!

And as we have found in the likes of the Apostle Paul and King David, may we be challenged this morning to:

TRULY HUNGER, THIRST, DESIRE, LONG FOR, PASSIONATELY PURSUE JESUS CHRIST
AND HIS RIGHTEOUSNESS!!!!

What do you long for?

Blessed are they that hunger and thirst for righteousness; FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED!