

Spiritual Appetite

Scripture – Matt 5:6 (NKJV)

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.

A. INTRODUCTION

1. “Blessed” (Makarios)
 - Not natural or human happiness
 - To be supremely happy and well off
2. Benefit promised – “they shall be filled”
 - “Filled” (Chortazo)
 - To be gorged
 - To be fully satisfied
 - To enjoy abundance

B. INSIGHTS INTO THE NATURE OF SPIRITUAL APPETITE

1. Spiritual appetite is...
 - a) A motivator and director – Prov 16:26 (TNIV)
26 The appetite of laborers works for them; their hunger drives them on.
 - b) An indicator of spiritual health – Psa 107:17-18 (NLT)
17 Some were fools in their rebellion; they suffered for their sins. 18 Their appetites were gone, and death was near.
2. Spiritual appetite can't be satisfied with spiritual junk food
 - Isa 55:2 (NCV)
2 Why spend your money on something that is not real food? Why work for something that doesn't really satisfy you? Listen closely to me, and you will eat what is good; your soul will enjoy the rich food that satisfies.

a) Pursuing satisfaction through various natural appetites is vain – Ecc 2:1-11 (NLT)

¹ I said to myself, "Come on, let's try pleasure. Let's look for the 'good things' in life." But I found that this, too, was meaningless. ² So I said, "Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?" ³ After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

⁴ I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards. ⁵ I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees. ⁶ I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves. ⁷ I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me. ⁸ I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire!

⁹ So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me. ¹⁰ Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors. ¹¹ But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

b) Unhealthy craving for "junk food" may indicate unmet needs within.

3. Spiritual appetite moves us towards true righteousness.

a) 2 kinds of righteousness:

- Man's – Rom 10:3 (NCV)

³ Because they did not know the way that God makes people right with him, they tried to make themselves right in their own way. So they did not accept God's way of making people right.

- God's – Rom 1:17 (TNIV)

¹⁷ For in the gospel the righteousness of God is revealed—a righteousness that is by faith from first to last, [a] just as it is written: "The righteous will live by faith."

b) Seek – Matt 6:33 (Amplified)

³³ But seek ([a]aim at and strive after) first of all His kingdom and His righteousness ([b]His way of doing and being right), and then all these things [c]taken together will be given you besides.

4. Spiritual appetite can be cultivated.

a) Detoxify the soul – 1 Pet 2:1-3 (NLT)

¹ So get rid of all evil behavior. Be done with all deceit, hypocrisy, jealousy, and all unkind speech. ² Like newborn babies, you must crave pure spiritual milk so that you will grow into a full experience of salvation. Cry out for this nourishment, ³ now that you have had a taste of the Lord's kindness.

b) Draw near daily – Psa 37:4 (Good News)

Seek your happiness in the Lord, and he will give you your heart's desire.

– Psa 63:1-5 (NLT)

¹ O God, you are my God; I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my whole body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water.

² I have seen you in your sanctuary and gazed upon your power and glory.

³ Your unfailing love is better than life itself; how I praise you!

⁴ I will praise you as long as I live, lifting up my hands to you in prayer.

⁵ You satisfy me more than the richest feast. I will praise you with songs of joy.

c) Decide to do God's will – Jn 4:34 (Amplified)

³⁴ Jesus said to them, My food (nourishment) is to do the will (pleasure) of Him Who sent Me and to accomplish and completely finish His work.

– Isa 55:1-3 (NCV)

¹ The LORD says, "All you who are thirsty, come and drink. Those of you who do not have money, come, buy and eat!

Come buy wine and milk without money and without cost.

² Why spend your money on something that is not real food?

Why work for something that doesn't really satisfy you? Listen closely to me, and you will eat what is good; your soul will

enjoy the rich food that satisfies.

³ Come to me and listen; listen to me so you may live. I will make an agreement with you that will last forever. I will give you the blessings I promised to David.