

Devotional Matthew 5:6 – Hunger and Thirst October 10, 2021

Monday

Read Matthew 5:1-12

The blessed ones in this beatitude are not the ones who can feed themselves. If you can feed yourself, you are usually not hungry or thirsty for long. If you already consider yourself to be righteous or are fairly sure you can supply the means for being righteous, you have no need for this blessing. Jesus spends his time seeking out sinners and not the righteous. He vindicates the penitent, not the self-assured.

What does it look like in your life to be hungry and thirsty for righteousness?

Tuesday

Read Romans 1:16-17 (and further, if you wish)

In Romans 1:18, the Apostle Paul tells us that God's wrath is poured out against all human ungodliness and unrighteousness. The wrath of God is a loaded term. We don't have to think of all kinds of scary, devilish scenes. We can matter-of-factly know that God's wrath is how God expresses love against all that oppose God's love and God's ways. In the face of sin, evil, and death, God's love says "no." God does not accept sin, evil, and death, God says, "no." The final "no" to all ungodliness and unrighteousness is Jesus, God's own Son. Jesus lived a perfectly righteous life to the point of being executed by sinners on a cross to be the final "no" to all evil and brokenness. On the cross, Jesus has taken on the weight of our rejection of God's love, removed it, and destroyed it. He trades his own righteousness and life for our sin and death. And in his resurrection, the power of sin and death is eliminated, and the love of God wins. 2 Corinthians 5:21 says, "For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God." We say "no" to God with our sin and instead of accepting our rejection, God says "no" to our "no" with

Jesus. God says no to your rebellion. Jesus takes on the weight of your rebellion and does away with its power of you and affects for eternity.

Wednesday

Read Matthew 5:6 and Isaiah 1:10-20

Jesus is our only righteousness and we cannot be righteous before God except through him and in his death and resurrection Jesus has done the work that needs to be done for us to be righteous before God. You receive that righteousness by accepting God's gracious gift of Jesus Christ and believing that Jesus did those things and did them for you. Receiving that righteousness means that when God the Father looks at you, He sees Jesus. And while Jesus hungers and thirsts for you to be righteous before God, he also hungers and thirsts for us to be right with each other. So, when people look at you, do they see you how God sees you – do they see Jesus? This is the project of our lives: to pursue the righteousness of Jesus in our lives and relationships with one another so that Jesus and his righteousness are seen. Be wary of making worship offerings to God without doing the justice of God (see Isaiah again).

Thursday

Read Matthew 5:14-16

Your light can illuminate the world around you. Sometimes it feels like we don't make much of a difference... but we're wrong. Our lives and what we do with them are crucial to God's mission. I invite you to do this little exercise to dream of the world you want to see and what you can do to help make that happen. Here are three prompts, you can do as many as you feel led to do. Approach this activity prayerfully and joyfully:

I want to live in a world where...

...so one thing I can do is...

I want to live in a world where...

...so one thing I can do is...

I want to live in a world where...

...so one thing I can do is...

Now, go and do it! God be with you.