

## Are You Hungry? Matthew 5:6

In Matthew chapter 5 verse 6 we find the Beatitude that reads, *"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled."* NIV

I'm sure you may have experienced a time when a baby earnestly lets you know when they are hungry? They cry and become red in the face. They let you know without a doubt that they want something from you. A desire is created by their hunger. And we are all too familiar with a practice of putting off that hunger in giving the baby a pacifier. It's a piece of molded soft plastic designed to trick the child. Essentially, we offer the baby a substitute for real food. It is designed to make the baby feel like he's getting something and calm his real desire. But eventually the baby realizes how hard he is working and he is still hungry!

Many people come to church on Sunday, and they are satisfied with a pacifier...going through the motions of worship, and sharing polite fellowship only to discover that they are still hungry. Uncertain times and threatening situations require more sustenance to survive. Jesus promises here in Matthew chapter 5, the Sermon on the Mount, that those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...a spiritual hunger... will be filled.

When the physical body cries out for food, one feels emptiness in the stomach, weakness in the muscles, or light-headed and dizzy. But when the spirit is malnourished, the gradual reaction in life is very different. Spiritual malnourishment appears as anger, irritability, depression, bitterness, resentment, self-pity, hopelessness, despair, jealousy, addictions, arguing and family conflicts as self-centeredness sets in. Might you be feeling any of those symptoms, right now? You see, this is not just the emptiness we feel between meals, this is about when God creates a hunger in us to know Him and understand His will.

Notice how Jesus states this beatitude. He does not say, "Blessed are those who have hungered"...but rather, "Blessed are those who hunger" ( KJV says, "do hunger"). This hungering for righteousness is a continuous state, to be beneficial for growing in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

Through this beatitude, God presents us with a serious challenge.

How hungry are you?

How much do you want goodness? the righteousness of God?

Do you want it as much as a starving man desires food?

Are you ready to give up the "pacifiers" you may be accustomed to and pursue real spiritual food?

You may have seen the display of books for the RED LETTER CHALLENGE. Simply, it is an interactive Bible Study on the Words of Christ ( the red letter words) and how we might do them in our lives, our families, our church and community. Sign up today to receive your copy.

This is how He fills us...being fed on His Word.

It is our prayer that each member would accept the challenge to be actively involved in the RED LETTER CHALLENGE to make Christ's Words a part of daily living and be filled with His grace, hope and love... "immeasurably more than we can ask or imagine."

The Prayer Team---Hope Lutheran Church