

The Beatitudes: Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

September 18, 2016

Matthew 5:6 NASB

6 Blessed are those who **HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**, for **THEY SHALL BE SATISFIED**.

How much do you want to be right with God? How much do you desire God? What would you be willing to sacrifice to be right with God?

The whole purpose of this earth life is to determine whether or not we are right with God for all eternity.

Jesus' description of our desire to be right with God, the comparison to hunger and thirst, sets the level and intensity of desire that is required. There are basically four necessities of life: food, water, oxygen and shelter. Jesus places the desire to be right with God just as dire and acute.

Our life depends on eating and drinking. Without food and water we will die. People become desperate, willing to pay any price and suffer any loss for water to drink and food to eat.

Does that describe your desire and your commitment to be right with God? Are you willing to pay any price and suffer any loss?

"Complacency is a deadly foe of all spiritual growth. Acute desire must be present or there will be no manifestation of Christ to His people. He waits to be wanted. Too bad that with many of us He waits so long, so very long, in vain." -- A.W. Tozer, "The Pursuit of God"

Revival does not come by technique, methodology or strategy. Revival comes by desire and desperation.

"Revival starts with a handful of praying people who develop an insatiable burden to plead with heaven for revival, as in Psalm 85:6: 'Will You not revive us again?'" -- David Jeremiah

THE COST OF BEING RIGHT WITH GOD

God does not require perfect behavior, but He does require perfect commitment.

Jeremiah 29:13 NASB

13 You will seek Me and find Me **when you search for Me WITH ALL YOUR HEART**.

1 Kings 18:21 NASB

21 Elijah came near to all the people and said, "**HOW LONG WILL YOU HESITATE BETWEEN TWO OPINIONS? IF THE LORD IS GOD, FOLLOW HIM; BUT IF BAAL, FOLLOW HIM.**" But the people did not answer him a word.

James 4:4 NASB

4 YOU **ADULTERESSES**, DO YOU NOT KNOW THAT **FRIENDSHIP WITH THE WORLD IS HOSTILITY TOWARD GOD?** THEREFORE WHOEVER WISHES TO BE A FRIEND OF THE WORLD **MAKES HIMSELF AN ENEMY OF GOD**.

James 4:8-9 NASB

8 Draw near to God and He will draw near to you. **CLEANSE YOUR HANDS, YOU SINNERS; AND PURIFY YOUR HEARTS, YOU DOUBLE-MINDED.**

9 Be miserable and mourn and weep; let your laughter be turned into mourning and your joy to gloom.

Exodus 34:12-14 NASB

12 **WATCH YOURSELF THAT YOU MAKE NO COVENANT WITH THE INHABITANTS OF THE LAND INTO WHICH YOU ARE GOING, OR IT WILL BECOME A SNARE IN YOUR MIDST.**

13 **BUT RATHER, YOU ARE TO TEAR DOWN THEIR ALTARS AND SMASH THEIR SACRED PILLARS AND CUT DOWN THEIR ASHERIM**

14 **--FOR YOU SHALL NOT WORSHIP ANY OTHER GOD, FOR THE LORD, WHOSE NAME IS JEALOUS, IS A JEALOUS GOD--**

2 Chronicles 16:9 NASB

9 **FOR THE EYES OF THE LORD MOVE TO AND FRO THROUGHOUT THE EARTH THAT HE MAY STRONGLY SUPPORT THOSE WHOSE HEART IS COMPLETELY HIS.**

Matthew 16:24-25 NASB

24 Then Jesus said to His disciples, "If anyone wishes to come after Me, **HE MUST DENY HIMSELF, and TAKE UP HIS CROSS and follow Me.**"

25 **FOR WHOEVER WISHES TO SAVE HIS LIFE WILL LOSE IT; BUT WHOEVER LOSES HIS LIFE FOR MY SAKE WILL FIND IT.**

Luke 14:25-28 NASB

25 **NOW LARGE CROWDS WERE GOING ALONG WITH HIM; AND HE TURNED AND SAID TO THEM,**

26 **IF ANYONE COMES TO ME, AND DOES NOT HATE HIS OWN FATHER AND MOTHER AND WIFE AND CHILDREN AND BROTHERS AND SISTERS, YES, AND EVEN HIS OWN LIFE, HE CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.**

27 **WHOEVER DOES NOT CARRY HIS OWN CROSS AND COME AFTER ME CANNOT BE MY DISCIPLE.**

28 **FOR WHICH ONE OF YOU, WHEN HE WANTS TO BUILD A TOWER, DOES NOT FIRST SIT DOWN AND CALCULATE THE COST TO SEE IF HE HAS ENOUGH TO COMPLETE IT?**

GOD WILL PROVE THE INTENSITY OF YOUR DESIRE AND THE STRENGTH OF YOUR COMMITMENT

Life is one test of circumstance after another, orchestrated by God's sovereignty, to prove and expose the intensity of our desire and the strength of our commitment.

Psalm 11:4-5 NASB

4 **THE LORD IS IN HIS HOLY TEMPLE; THE LORD'S THRONE IS IN HEAVEN; HIS EYES BEHOLD, HIS EYELIDS TEST THE SONS OF MEN.**

5 **THE LORD TESTS THE RIGHTEOUS** and the wicked, And the one who loves violence His soul hates.

Genesis 22:1-2 NASB

1 Now it came about after these things, that **GOD TESTED ABRAHAM**, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am."

2 He said, "**TAKE NOW YOUR SON, YOUR ONLY SON, WHOM YOU LOVE**, Isaac, and go to the land of Moriah, and **OFFER HIM THERE AS A BURNT OFFERING** on one of the mountains of which I will tell you."

Luke 18:18-30 NASB

18 A ruler questioned Him, saying, "Good Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?"

19 And Jesus said to him, "Why do you call Me good? No one is good except God alone.

20 "You know the commandments, 'Do not commit adultery, do not murder, do not steal, do not bear false witness, honor your father and mother.'"

21 And he said, "All these things I have kept from my youth."

22 When Jesus heard this, He said to him, "**ONE THING YOU STILL LACK; SELL ALL THAT YOU POSSESS AND DISTRIBUTE IT TO THE POOR, AND YOU SHALL HAVE TREASURE IN HEAVEN; AND COME, FOLLOW ME.**"

23 **BUT WHEN HE HAD HEARD THESE THINGS, HE BECAME VERY SAD, FOR HE WAS EXTREMELY RICH.**

24 And Jesus looked at him and said, "How hard it is for those who are wealthy to enter the kingdom of God!

25 For it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God."

26 They who heard it said, "**THEN WHO CAN BE SAVED?**"

27 But He said, "**THE THINGS THAT ARE IMPOSSIBLE WITH PEOPLE ARE POSSIBLE WITH GOD.**"

28 Peter said, "Behold, we have left our own homes and followed You."

29 And He said to them, "**TRULY I SAY TO YOU, THERE IS NO ONE WHO HAS LEFT HOUSE OR WIFE OR BROTHERS OR PARENTS OR CHILDREN, FOR THE SAKE OF THE KINGDOM OF GOD,**

30 **WHO WILL NOT RECEIVE MANY TIMES AS MUCH AT THIS TIME AND IN THE AGE TO COME, ETERNAL LIFE.**"

Acts 5:1-11 NASB

1 But a man named Ananias, with his wife Sapphira, **SOLD A PIECE OF PROPERTY,**

2 **AND KEPT BACK SOME OF THE PRICE FOR HIMSELF, WITH HIS WIFE'S FULL KNOWLEDGE, AND BRINGING A PORTION OF IT, HE LAID IT AT THE APOSTLES' FEET.**

3 **BUT PETER SAID, "ANANIAS, WHY HAS SATAN FILLED YOUR HEART TO LIE TO THE HOLY SPIRIT AND TO KEEP BACK SOME OF THE PRICE OF THE LAND?"**

4 **"WHILE IT REMAINED UNSOLD, DID IT NOT REMAIN YOUR OWN? AND AFTER IT WAS SOLD, WAS IT NOT UNDER YOUR CONTROL? WHY IS IT THAT YOU HAVE CONCEIVED THIS DEED IN YOUR HEART? YOU HAVE NOT LIED TO MEN BUT TO GOD."**

5 **AND AS HE HEARD THESE WORDS, ANANIAS FELL DOWN AND BREATHED HIS LAST; AND GREAT FEAR CAME OVER ALL WHO HEARD OF IT.**

6 The young men got up and covered him up, and after carrying him out, they buried him.

7 Now there elapsed an interval of about three hours, and his wife came in, not knowing what had happened.

8 And Peter responded to her, "Tell me whether you sold the land for such and such a price?" And she said, "Yes, that was the price."

9 Then Peter said to her, "**WHY IS IT THAT YOU HAVE AGREED TOGETHER TO PUT THE SPIRIT OF THE LORD TO THE TEST? BEHOLD, THE FEET OF THOSE WHO HAVE BURIED YOUR HUSBAND ARE AT THE DOOR, AND THEY WILL CARRY YOU OUT AS WELL.**"

10 **AND IMMEDIATELY SHE FELL AT HIS FEET AND BREATHED HER LAST,** and the young men came in and found her dead, and they carried her out and buried her beside her husband.

11 **AND GREAT FEAR CAME OVER THE WHOLE CHURCH, AND OVER ALL WHO HEARD OF THESE THINGS.**

GOD WILL GROW AND MATURE THE INTENSITY OF YOUR DESIRE AND THE STRENGTH OF YOUR COMMITMENT

If your love and commitment fails the test, God is patient and gives another opportunity for your love to be matured and proven.

Isaiah 30:15-18 NASB

15 For thus the Lord GOD, the Holy One of Israel, has said, "In repentance and rest you will be saved, in quietness and trust is your strength." But you were not willing,

16 And you said, "No, for we will flee on horses," Therefore you shall flee! "And we will ride on swift horses," Therefore those who pursue you shall be swift.

17 One thousand will flee at the threat of one man; You will flee at the threat of five, Until you are left as a flag on a mountain top and as a signal on a hill.

18 THEREFORE THE LORD LONGS TO BE GRACIOUS TO YOU, AND THEREFORE HE WAITS ON HIGH TO HAVE COMPASSION ON YOU. FOR THE LORD IS A GOD OF JUSTICE; HOW BLESSED ARE ALL THOSE WHO LONG FOR HIM.

John 15:1-4 NASB

1 I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser.

2 Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit, He takes away; and **EVERY BRANCH THAT BEARS FRUIT, HE PRUNES IT SO THAT IT MAY BEAR MORE FRUIT.**

3 YOU ARE ALREADY CLEAN BECAUSE OF THE WORD WHICH I HAVE SPOKEN TO YOU.

4 Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself unless it abides in the vine, so neither can you unless you abide in Me.

John 21:14-22 NASB

14 This is now the third time that Jesus was manifested to the disciples, after He was raised from the dead.

15 So when they had finished breakfast, **JESUS SAID TO SIMON PETER, "SIMON, SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME MORE THAN THESE?" HE SAID TO HIM, "YES, LORD; YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU." HE SAID TO HIM, "TEND MY LAMBS."**

16 **HE SAID TO HIM AGAIN A SECOND TIME, "SIMON, SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME?" HE SAID TO HIM, "YES, LORD; YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU." HE SAID TO HIM, "SHEPHERD MY SHEEP."**

17 **HE SAID TO HIM THE THIRD TIME, "SIMON, SON OF JOHN, DO YOU LOVE ME?" PETER WAS GRIEVED BECAUSE HE SAID TO HIM THE THIRD TIME, "DO YOU LOVE ME?" AND HE SAID TO HIM, "LORD, YOU KNOW ALL THINGS; YOU KNOW THAT I LOVE YOU." JESUS SAID TO HIM, "TEND MY SHEEP."**

18 "Truly, truly, I say to you, when you were younger, you used to gird yourself and walk wherever you wished; but when you grow old, you will stretch out your hands and someone else will gird you, and bring you where you do not wish to go."

19 Now this He said, signifying by what kind of death he would glorify God. And when He had spoken this, He said to him, "Follow Me!"

20 Peter, turning around, saw the disciple whom Jesus loved following them; the one who also had leaned back on His bosom at the supper and said, "Lord, who is the one who betrays You?"

21 So Peter seeing him said to Jesus, "Lord, and what about this man?"

22 Jesus said to him, "If I want him to remain until I come, what is that to you? You follow Me!"