

Blessed are Those Who Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

August 28, 2014

Matthew 5:6

"Blessed are those who **HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS**, for **they shall be satisfied.**"

Jeremiah 29

12 Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you.

13 You will seek me and find me, **when you seek me with all your heart.**

- *Only when you seek God, as though your life depends on it, will you find Him.*
 - *seeking God is not an addition, a supplement or hobby in your life - it must BE your life, your very breath and sustenance*
- *You know you are lukewarm when:*
 - *you can go through a day without prayer and Bible reading/study*
 - *your thoughts gravitate away from God onto earthly matters and things*
 - *when the desire to know Him does not consume you throughout the day*
 - *when your purpose is to please yourself and others more than pleasing God*
 - *when your time, money and energy are spent on earthly pursuits more than spiritual*

Revelation 3:14–20

14 "And to the angel of the church in Laodicea write: 'The words of the Amen, the faithful and true witness, the beginning of God's creation.

15 " 'I know your works: you are neither cold nor hot. Would that you were either cold or hot!

16 So, because you are **LUKEWARM**, and neither hot nor cold, I will spit you out of my mouth.

17 **For you say, I am rich, I have prospered, and I need nothing, not realizing that you are wretched, pitiable, poor, blind, and naked.**

18 I counsel you to **BUY FROM ME** (1) **GOLD REFINED BY FIRE**, so that you may be rich, and (2) **WHITE GARMENTS** so that you may clothe yourself and the shame of your nakedness may not be seen, and (3) **SALVE TO ANOINT YOUR EYES**, so that you may see.

19 **Those whom I love, I reprove and discipline, so be zealous and repent.**

20 Behold, I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door, I will come in to him and eat with him, and he with me.

THE HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS ARE FUELED BY:

- the knowledge and wonder of His Person
- the knowledge of our need

JESUS' COUNSEL FOR LUKEWARM CHRISTIANS:

1. buy gold refined by fire
2. buy white garments to cover our shame
3. buy salve to anoint our eyes to see

GOLD REFINED BY FIRE (*the purification of exposure by trials*)

1 Peter 1:6-7

6 In this you rejoice, though now for a little while, if necessary, you have been grieved by various trials,
7 so that the tested genuineness of your faith—more precious than gold that perishes though it is tested by fire—may be found to result in praise and glory and honor at the revelation of Jesus Christ.

WHITE GARMENTS TO COVER (*“put on” the righteousness of Christ to cover the sin still residing in our flesh*)

Romans 7:17-20

17 So now it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

18 For I know that nothing good dwells in me, that is, in my flesh. For I have the desire to do what is right, but not the ability to carry it out.

19 For I do not do the good I want, but the evil I do not want is what I keep on doing.

20 Now if I do what I do not want, it is no longer I who do it, but sin that dwells within me.

Ephesians 4:22–24

22 to **PUT OFF** your old self, which belongs to your former manner of life and is corrupt through deceitful desires,

23 and to **be renewed in the spirit of your minds**,

24 and to **PUT ON** (*clothe or dress oneself, wrapped in a covering, endowed with a quality or condition*)

THE NEW SELF, created after the likeness of God in true righteousness and holiness.

SALVE TO ANOINT YOUR EYES

TO TRULY HUNGER AND THIRST FOR RIGHTEOUSNESS WE MUST:

- *See God for who He is*
- *See ourselves for who we are*

Job 42:5-6

5 I had heard of you by the hearing of the ear, but now **MY EYE SEES YOU**;

6 therefore **I DESPISE MYSELF**, and **repent** in dust and ashes.

Isaiah 6:5

And I said: “Woe is me! For I am lost; for I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips; **FOR MY EYES HAVE SEEN THE KING**, the Lord of hosts!”