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**A Disciple's Heart...Longs for Righteousness
Matthew 5:6**

This is the fourth distinguishing mark, or recognizable trait, of a true child of God.

Once a man has come to understand his position before God,

and in turn treasures the greatness of God and His ways,

it is only natural that he would long for all things to be made right again, as in the beginning. **A disciple's heart longs for rightness.**

Matthew 5:6 *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied*

Here Jesus is saying; you win when you realize that your satisfaction comes from God alone.

It is a good thing when your heart longs to be made right. Jesus says; happy is the man who can't wait for the grand reversal of all things, for he and he alone will be satisfied.

For biblical righteousness is more than a private and personal affair; it includes social righteousness as well.

Thus, Christians are committed to hunger for righteousness in the whole human community as something pleasing to a righteous God.

In **Romans 8:19-25** we get a glimpse of the longing in the Apostle Paul's heart for rightness.

*"For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, **groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies.** For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience."*

It is good when you are starving for righteousness because then, and only then, will you be content.

1. Does your heart wrestle with contentment? Do you wonder if you will ever feel fulfilled? Does your heart long for more? Does your heart anticipate something it hasn't found yet? Do you sometimes ask, "Is this all there is? Is this the best it will ever be?"
2. What have you tried to satisfy your heart with and found it still lacking?
3. What "yuck" in your heart are you sick of and long to be made right.
4. Does your heart long to be made right? Do you anticipate the grand reversal of all things?

If your heart is convicted because it longs for things that will never satisfy it, we need the Holy Spirit to show us how longing for righteousness is infinitely better.

Thank Jesus for the righteousness that he bought for you on the cross. Praise him! Jesus is returning and will complete your heart transformation.

On that day your heart will never again rebel, hide, wander, reject, second-guess or run from him. Your heart will be right and wholly satisfied in God's presence.

If your heart is saying "um, I'm pretty happy seeking fulfillment in_____?"

God is not afraid of your doubts. Ask Him to show you how he is supremely more satisfying than anything else.

Ask God to show you why and how these other pursuits will leave you hungry. Thank Jesus for his work on the cross, and then ask him to help your unbelief.

The sin beneath all other sins is a lack of joy in Christ.

It is not enough to mourn over past sin; we must also hunger for future righteousness.

It is not a comfortable picture. Jesus is far from recommending a genteel desire for spiritual nourishment, but rather a starvation for righteousness, a desperate hungering to be conformed to God's will.

And we consider the Church, it's not about getting a spiritual fix once or twice a week - it's about seeking righteousness with a family that is seeking the same.

This Beatitude is further intensified by the fact that this hungering is continual. "Blessed are those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness."

HOW IS YOUR APPETITE? The answer lies in the spiritual logic of the Beatitudes.

- We must begin with the first Beatitude, true poverty of spirit, realizing that there is nothing within us that commends us to God. We must affirm our spiritual bankruptcy.
- Next, we must graduate to the second Beatitude, truly mourning our sins as well as the sin around us.
- Then we must ascend to the third Beatitude, by allowing our spiritual bankruptcy and mourning to instill in us a truly meek and gentle spirit.
- Finally, as we live the logic of the Beatitudes, we will be able to desperately hunger and thirst for righteousness.

"They shall be satisfied" - by responding to God's invitation through Christ to be in relationship with Him

Hunger and thirst for righteousness is not just about wanting:

Salvation and the release from guilt over our sins

Or, the assurance of where our eternity will be

Hunger and thirst for righteousness is satisfied by Jesus Himself, for He in Himself IS OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS

The biggest and best gain for us in eternity is that we get to be with Jesus Forever