**KINGDOMIZED – Matthew 5:6**

Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,

for they will be satisfied.

This last week many of us had a hunger and thirst for a particular result in the election. Some of us had that desire satisfied and some of us did not. Even though some of us were happy with the results and some of us were not, we are all likely to be let down when the party of our choosing does not follow through with promises we had desired of them. However, there is a hunger and thirst that Jesus guaranteed to satisfy and it is that desire, that hunger and thirst for righteousness that we working through today.

So what? – What’s the Story? (TEXT/HEART)

***Blessed are the hungry.***

* Jesus is teaching the Sermon on the Mount as mentioned through Matthew chapters 5,6, and 7. How to live in the kingdom of Heaven
  + Our perspective of living is upside down.
  + Jesus is turning our perspective of life right-side up; to a kingdom perspective. This is why we are being *Kingdomized*.
* He keeps using this term, “**Blessed**” in the beginning of these blessings.
  + Not so much our feelings about our circumstances, but rather how God sees us.
  + He uses this pattern 8x: first describing *who* is blessed, and then *why* they are blessed. *REPEAT*
* The last three weeks Brent has covered the first three
  + The poor in spirit – those who understand that they cannot do this life on their own.
  + Those who mourn – those who cry out for humanity in suffering.
  + The meek – Not speaking of the powerless, but those with power in control. Assertive and Gentle
* But today we are talking of those who are hungry and thirsty.
  + Not for food but for righteousness
  + I want us to understand today that we are not talking of acts of righteousness but a desire for righteousness.
  + And Jesus sees those with that hunger as blessed, because he will satisfy that desire.

What’s What? – What’s the Point? (TEXT/HEAD)

***Those who are hungry will be fed.***

* Righteousness – What is it?
  + Some of your translations or paraphrases may differ on this term. “The NLT’s “justice” tends to reflect only the social nuance of righteousness, that of being treated justly by others. But in Matthew the term more often implies right behavior before God.” [[1]](#footnote-1)
  + There are many different nuances that this term “righteousness” takes on in scripture and in our world today.
    - Self-righteousness – prideful believing that we are so good at doing right.
    - Rectitude – morally upright behaviour
    - Imputed righteousness – The fact that Christ’s righteousness has been ascribed to us in order to justify our salvation.
  + But here Jesus is taking this Kingdomized approach.[[2]](#footnote-2)
    - Death to your sin.
    - Turn from the thinking and practices of the world (kingdom life vs. worldly life)
    - To fully follow and imitate his life.
  + Inward and outward. Not just outward.
    - Not of doing things righteously or trying not to sin
    - Or even just desiring to see righteousness in the world or in our country
      * A morally upright Canada
    - It is a desire to *be* righteous. To let righteousness shape who you are to the core so that in turn, our outward actions will reflect Christ.
  + Jesus is saying, “If you want me; if you want to be like me; if you want to stop living in a life of sin and be a better person; not just in your actions but in the very being of who you are…” He is saying, “I will give you that. **Those who are hungry will be fed”**

Yeah, But… – What’s the Problem? (TODAY/HEAD)

***What we choose to eat impacts our performance.***

* What if I’m not hungry?
  + I am content living my life and not having to get uncomfortable
  + I would rather sit and scroll through facebook than read my bible
  + I would rather schedule my life so busy that I don’t have time for God.
  + I have no desire to address my anger towards my spouse and kids.
  + I have no desire to stop having a little too much alcohol each night.
  + I have no desire to stop watching pornography because who’s it hurting anyway?
* ***What we choose to eat impacts our performance***
  + Thursday Biking with Stephen
    - Large difference between Stephen and I
    - Doing the same thing, Different outward result
    - Difference in Diet and lifestyle – My junk food.
  + If all we are feeding on is our society’s standard of righteousness, as in what is ok and what is not, then we will continue to come up short in imitating Christ. We cannot expect to perform well when we have not taken time to become spiritually fit.
* Our view of Grace needs to be *Kingdomized*
  + I believe that we so often fall into the habit of using Grace as our do whatever we want and get away with it badge.
    - Why do I need to change when God will forgive me?
    - Our concept of Grace is wrong
  + Rom. 6:1-2
  + Christ did not give his life so that sin could abound
  + Continuing in our sin with no desire to change is a rejection of the gospel we proclaim.
  + Grace does not mean that there is no punishment.
  + “Grace does not relieve people of their responsibility before God’s righteous standard.” – Kent Anderson[[3]](#footnote-3)
  + It is a balance of maintaining biblical holiness (righteousness) and being forgiven for your mistakes.

Now What? – What’s the difference? (TODAY/HEART)

***God provides us with the right food.***

* Isaiah 51:1 – Looking to the examples
* The Life of David
  + Was not short on sin
    - Adultery
    - Murder
    - Manipulation
  + He continually admitted and owned his failures, and he wanted to be better. (Showing himself poor in Spirit)
    - Ps. 51:3-4 - “against you, you only have I sinned.”
  + Again Kent Anderson states, “Grace makes no excuses, but then grace makes sure to forgive. That God, for instance, could offer David as an example of integrity (1 Kings 9:4) despite his acts of adultery, murder, and manipulation, is powerfully encouraging.”[[4]](#footnote-4)
  + But David hungered for righteousness.
    - Ps. 63:1 – I thirst for you… - Sounds like a weekend in Alberta
    - Ps. 42:1-2 – As the Deer…
    - Seen as a man after God’s own heart – Not because of sinless life. But because he strived for righteousness
* Being Righteousness is not about achieving a sinless life. It is not about showing people that I can follow the rules. It is about admitting and owning your sins and shortcomings and desiring to move forward in order to become more like Christ.
  + Righteousness encompasses all of the beatitudes
    - Being poor in spirit
    - Those who mourn
    - The meek and mild
* Digging Deeper
  + *I want to be better, not just do better.*
    - Hurdles in track and field. Coming in second last and then third last. I just wanted to do better
    - Fast forward to 2 ½ years ago in my addiction.
      * Doing better wasn’t working because I just wanted freedom. To be rid of the thorn in my flesh
      * I wanted more than anything to be better. To be righteous from the inside-out. To be a man after God’s own heart. It wasn’t until then that I began to see change.
* Start asking God to change your heart. Ask him for that Hunger and that Thirst.
  + Acknowledge the patterns of sin in your life
    - *Where do I continue to go off course?*
    - *What am I being fed?*
  + Confess those to God and begin spending time with Him, asking Him to change you more into the image of Christ and asking him to continually grow that hunger.
  + He will satisfy that hunger. He will provide you with the ability to put away your sin, to turn from the world’s standard of living, and to hold yourself to a higher standard; imitating Christ. He will provide us with righteousness so that in turn we can live it out to our world with confidence.
* Now You understand this hunger and thirst for righteousness because you understand the hunger and thirst you are feeling in your stomachs at this point.

1. David Turner and Darrell L. Bock, Cornerstone Biblical Commentary, Vol 11: Matthew and Mark (Carol Stream, IL: Tyndale House Publishers, 2005), 77. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. Joseph S. Exell, The Biblical Illustrator: Matthew (Grand Rapids, MI: Baker Book House, 1952), 50. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
3. Kenton Anderson, Preaching with Integrity (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2003), 136. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
4. Kenton Anderson, Preaching with Integrity (Grand Rapids, MI: Kregel Publications, 2003), 136. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)