

STAY THIRSTY MY FRIENDS, AND MERCIFUL

June 15, 2014 Matthew 5:6-7 by Bob Branch
The Truly Liberated Life, Part 4

MAIN IDEA: When you receive Jesus Christ into your life, there are unexpected results within you—new appetites, attitudes and actions—that represent God’s kingdom investment in you. Don’t be surprised. Cooperate.

God’s kingdom nearness

Blessed: Conditions in life the Kingdom impacts, answers, solves, addresses... “surprisingly fortunate”

Blessed: When you’re *Gospelized*, these things begin to happen in you.

Blessed are those who are hungering and thirsting for righteousness, for they will be filled-satisfied. **Matthew 5:6**

You’re surprisingly fortunate if you have an appetite for God making things right, for you will be fully satisfied.

The Gospel blesses us by making us hungry and thirsty, giving us an appetite for God making things right. This appetite will be satisfied.

APPETITE: Appetites very powerful.

“Hunger and thirst are not neutral. They are basic to our spiritual condition. If our appetites are not connected to righteousness in some way or another, they can quickly turn to addiction.” **Peterson**

RIGHTEOUSNESS:

- **Declared/Imputed righteousness** (Romans)
- **Justice** (things being put right where there is injustice). (Ps. 13:1-4; 35:17f; Lk. 18:7-8)
- **Torah righteousness** (based on the Law; “love” Matthew 22:37-40)
- In right relationship with **each other** (Adam-Eve; Cain-Abel)
- In right relationship with the **earth** (toil; earth no longer yields easily)
- In right relationship with **self** (sin, separated, alienated, damaged)
- In right relationship with **God** (East of Eden; alienated, estranged)

1. **The Gospel AWAKENS a hunger in us, a thirst. Let yourself become hungry as God designed.**

“As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?” **Psalms 42:1-2**

2. **Righteousness describes things in RIGHT RELATIONSHIP... with God, self, others, and creation. Let yourself be thirsty for God to put things right.**

“Be reconciled to God.” **2 Corinthians 5:20**

3. **This hunger-thirst the Gospel creates in us will be SATISFIED only by God. Submit all your appetites to him and let him satisfy your thirst.**

“The eyes of all look to you, and you give them their food at the proper time. You open your hand and satisfy the desires of every living thing.” **Psalms 145:15-16**

Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy. **Matthew 5:7**

The Gospelized are blessed for mercy is poured in and comes out of them.

You’re startlingly lucky when you are treating others with mercy, God’s mercy will become real to you.

4. **The Gospel of the kingdom PRODUCES mercy in us... because we receive mercy and Mercy Himself. God comes near. We are spared. Loved.**

“Shouldn’t you have mercy on your fellow servant, just as I had mercy on you?” **Matthew 18:33** NLT

“Once you received no mercy; now you have received God’s mercy.” **1 Peter 2:10** NLT

5. **The Gospelized are merciful. We don’t give back to people WHAT THEY DESERVE.**

“Mercy and forgiveness must be free and unmerited to the wrongdoer. If the wrongdoer has to do something to merit it, then it isn’t mercy, but forgiveness always comes at a cost to the one granting the forgiveness.” — **Timothy Keller**, *The Prodigal God*