

I. *Hunger* and *thirst* are God-given
blessings

A. As it is in the *physical*, so
it is in the *spiritual*

Gen 1:1;
II Kings 6:17;
Heb 8:5;
Luke 17:12-14;
Eph 5:20

B. In this *fallen* world, our
spiritual *hunger* is
dysfunctional

I Pet 2:2;
Luke 15:11-24

II. The God-blessed *crave* *righteousness*

A. They know what they *don't*
want anymore, and what they
do

Mark 6:19-20;
Matt 5:3-5;
Numbers 23:10b

B. They *work* to stay *hungry*

Ps 34:8

III. Those who *hunger* and *thirst*
for righteousness will be *filled*

A. They are *filled* with that
which can *satisfy*

II Cor 7:10

B. We are filled with *Him*

John 6:35;
John 7:37-38;
Eph 3:16-17;
Ps 103:1, 5;
Rom 8:11

Care Group Questions

“Blessed Distress”
Text: Matthew 5:6

Dave Bechtel

May 6, 2007

1. Can you remember a time when you were desperately hungry and/or thirsty? What was the situation? How did it come to an end?
2. “As it is in the physical, so the spiritual.” List at least twenty physical/spiritual analogies given to us in the Scripture (e.g. the “head” of the “body” is Christ). What would “spiritual hunger” mean?
3. Do you know someone whose physical hunger mechanism doesn’t really work right (could be you)? What are the symptoms? The consequences?
4. Using the analogy of “every time I was spiritually hungry this ‘bottle’ went into my mouth”, what is the “bottle” to which you are attracted when you are lonely, discouraged, spiritually “hungry”?
(e.g. spending money, food, entertainment, recognition, etc.)
5. What, in a simple definition, is righteousness? Why would someone come to the point that they craved it?
6. God can heal our spiritual hunger functioning, and He uses a sequence. Explain how this beatitude is the fourth, behind the other three, for a reason (how does each lead to the other?)
7. In your life, what are some activities, exposures, habits that tend to “spoil your spiritual appetite”?
8. What are some activities, relationships, habits, etc. that can stir up your personal spiritual hunger and thirst?
9. What is the paradox here, since the verbs that Jesus used are duratives (those who **continually** hunger and thirst . . .)?
10. Who does the filling of these people? With what are they filled?

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Agriculture

Birds
Drought
Fruit/crops
Harvesting
Rocks
Roots
Seeds
Soil
Sowing
Water/rain
Weeds

Animals

Ants	Lions
Bees	Lizards
Camels	Locusts
Cows	Quail
Deer	Rats
Dogs	Scorpions
Doves	Sheep/lamb
Eagles	Snakes
Fish	Vultures
Frogs	Wolves
Horses	

Family
Adoption
Brother
Discipline
Father
Inheritance
Marriage
Mother
Protection
Provision
Sister

Warfare
Armor
Battles
Commanders
Enemies
Fortresses/strongholds
Snares/traps/ambushes
Soldiers
Weapons (sword, arrows)

Body

Age	Injury
Arms	Lame
Blind	Life
Breathing	Loins
Death	Running
Diseases	Sitting
Drinking/water	Sleep
Eating/food	Standing
Exercise	Stiff-necked
Eyes	Strength
Falling	Taste
Feet	Teeth
Growth	Tripping/stumbling
Health	Walking
Hands	Pain
Head	- Hunger
Heart	- Thirst