

Thirsty Souls & Hungry Hearts

I. Slide1 Announce:

- A. Slide2 Baby Dedication: (2nd) Richey & Lenna Sanchez. *Penelope Aria*.
- B. Slide3 Wait Until Dark - HS Play
- C. Slide4 Orphan Sunday - Help love a child. - Is.1:17 *Defend the cause of the fatherless*. All around the world, orphans are hungry, homeless, voiceless, without hope, without love. And it's not just a need that exists in a far away place - it's in need right here at home, too. Across America, many children waiting foster care for a lovely family. But these problems can be solved – It just takes individuals to care. *If you want to make a difference or help a waiting child...adopt...foster...or become a safe family*.
- D. Slide5 Orphan Awareness Forum - Sat 11/21. At Hot Springs. Hosted by Int Christian Adoptions. 9am-1pm. Free. *A great resource for domestic & int adoptions. Chet Lowe guest speaker*.
- E. Myanmar elections today (91 running candidates, 2 main). *Haiti elections (70/2)*.
- F. Slide6 Honor Veterans (Wed) - TY to all who have served in our armed services.
 1. I also want to acknowledge the soldiers who **served our country** but didn't fight in a foreign war. *We thank you for your service also. David honored both those that went and fought & those that stayed by the supplies*. 1Sam30:24.
 2. *Pray* for those who have come home from battle & we ask for *healing* for *their heart, their soul, their mind & their strength*. Veteran unemployment. PTSD. Traumatic Brain Injury. A backlog of 1.2 million claims at the Veterans Administration. *& A third of all homeless citizens in America are Veterans*.

II. Slide7 Intro: *Thirsty Souls & Hungry Hearts*

- A. We continue to probe *inside of a happy heart* to discover what's there.
 1. So far we saw **the poor in spirit** are blest *not* the proud. *Next* the comfort Christ promises is for those who **1st mourn** over their sins & the sins of others. *Next*, the way of blessing is also through **meekness**, *not* by being *haughty, arrogant, or aggressive*.
- B. In most countries, in the biblical times and now, people are mis-ruled by their governments. **Exploitation** of the poor and **injustice** prevail everywhere. Heavy taxes and extortion by government officials make people *hunger for righteousness*. To console

themselves they dream of *kind Kings* and *honest officials* to replace their *harsh rulers*.¹

- C. **Slide8** In Eccl.3:11 Solomon says *He(God) has put(planted, nlt) eternity in their hearts, except that no one can find out the work that God does from beginning to end.*
1. So God has **placed** in man's heart this **restlessness & longing** for Himself.
 2. St. Augustine said, *Thou madest us for Thyself, and our heart is restless, until it rest in Thee.* **Restlessness & longing** are universal traits of the human heart.
 3. **Slide9 The Pulley Poem** (George Herbert, from John Piper study)
 - a) When God at first made man, Having a glass of **blessings** standing by - Let us (said He) pour on him **all we can**; Let the world's riches which dispersed lie, Contract into a span. So **strength** first made a way; Then **beauty** flow'd, then **wisdom, honour, pleasure**: When almost all was out, God made a stay, Perceiving that, alone, of all His treasure, **Rest** in the bottom lay. For if I should (said He) Bestow **this jewel** also on My creature, He would adore **My gifts instead of Me**, And **rest in nature, not the God of Nature**: So both should losers be. Yet let Him keep the **rest**, But keep **them** with *repining restlessness*; Let him be rich and *weary*, that at least If goodness lead him not, *yet weariness* May toss him to My breast.
 4. Since God **planted eternity into man's heart** w/it's **insatiable restlessness & longing**...we've tried filling it with illegal drugs, sexual exploits, scenic vacations, stunning cinematic productions, **everything/anything but HIM**. **But the longing remains.**
 - a) **Slide10** Isaiah asked, *"Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink - even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk - it's all free! Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good?"* (Del Taco) *Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life.* Is.55:1-3
- D. **Slide11a** Our hypothalamus controls our *body temperature, hunger, thirst, fatigue, sleep, and circadian rhythms* (those 24 hour rhythms of our biological or **internal** clocks)

¹ George Lamsa, Gospel Light, pg.27.

1. When organisms are thirsty, they have a tendency to seek water. When they find water and drink, they are no longer thirsty, and the thirst drive is reduced.
2. I believe this scripture is about a **drive** also.

E. Slide11b Do you have *thirsty souls & hungry hearts* this morning? Do you have an *insatiable longing* for something. A *restlessness*? *Where*, the grass seems greener... wherever you're not standing. *Where*, the thrill of **lust**...just keeps turning to **guilt & loneliness**. *Where*, medicating away your **pain** feels pretty darn good...*until* you wake up to the reality of this world again. *Where*, soaking your **hurts** in alcohol finds a sweet escape...*until* awaking to find the same *messed up relationships* still there. *Where*, your new toy is pretty boring after a few weeks.

1. Slide12 CS Lewis was right when he said, *if I find in myself a desire which no experience in this world can satisfy, the most probable explanation is that I was made for another world.*
2. **Jesus** has something to say about this *universal experience* this *inconsolable longing*.

III. Slide13 **BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO HUNGER & THIRST FOR RT (6a)**

A. Nkjv *Blessed are those who hunger & thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled.*

B. Nlt *God blesses those who hunger and thirst for **justice**, for they will be **satisfied**.*

1. Justice is treating people **equitably**, by giving people what they are **due**. **Punishment** to the evil doers, **or protection or care to the vulnerable**. **And living a life of right relationships w/God & fellow man**. [combo rt & justice]

C. Msg *You're blessed when you've **worked up a good appetite for God**. He's **food and drink in the best meal you'll ever eat**.*

D. Slide14 **What does He mean by righteousness?** (it comes up 5 x's in this sermon, 5:6,10,20; 6:1,33)

1. Slide15 It will help to look at the beatitudes **structure**. [8 of them, vs11 expands vs10]
2. Slide16 The **1st & last** beatitude (vs.2,10) give the same assurance, **for theirs is the kingdom of heaven**. [sandwiched together like 8 jellybeans, inside a plastic easter egg]
3. Slide17 2 groups of 4. End of the 1st 4 **&** end of the last 4, **close w/a ref to righteousness**

4. **Note** with the 1st set we're told to **thirst after it**, but in the end they not only have it, but it's overflowing, they are being **persecuted** for having it.
 - a) The 1st set points to the **emptying** of ourselves (**poor in spirit, mourn over sin, they are meek & don't retaliate**).
 - b) The 2nd set points to our **filling**. This person is overflowing with **mercy, purity in heart & isn't just peaceful but a peacemaker. They are merciful, pure, peacemakers.**
 - c) This is the **righteousness** that **exceeds** the religious leaders, **see** vs.20.
- E. **Slide18 6 things follow vs.20 that define this righteousness that exceeds...**
 1. We must not only **not kill**, but we must **not sustain anger** (21-26).
 2. We must not only **not commit adultery**, but we must **not look upon another lustfully** (27-30).
 3. We must not only **not condone divorce just cuz there is legal provision for it in the OT**, but we can exceed the righteousness that can make peace w/the hardest of hearts & **keep our covenant commitments** (31,32).
 - a) Like a young lady who has just decided to **thirst after righteousness instead of thirsting after retaliation** even though her marriage covenant was **radically violated**.
 4. We must not only **keep our oaths**, but we need to be the kind of people who **don't need to make oaths** in order for people to believe us (33-37).
 5. We must not only **not poke out an eye**, but **turn the other cheek & return good for evil** (38-42).
 6. We must not only **love our neighbor**, but **love our enemy & pray for our persecutors** (43-48).
 - a) So this **righteousness** is obviously the righteousness that **God** provides.
 7. **Slide19** We are to **seek first the kingdom of God & His righteousness**. Mt.6:33 **or** **Seek the Kingdom of God above all else, and live righteously, and He will give you everything you need(nlt).** **or, Steep your life in God-reality, God-initiative, God-provisions. Don't worry about missing out. You'll find all your everyday human concerns will be met** (msg).
- F. **See**, the great stories of the future will be written of real men & women who were passionately committed to one thing...**the righteousness of God**.

1. *Make it the **passion** and the **hunger** and **thirst** of your life to do great acts of righteousness. Don't settle for the little halfhearted satisfaction of being a **millionaire**.* John piper

G. *Slide20a* Ok, how do I start fresh? Well, it's never too late to *change your diet*:
Eat & drink righteousness.

1. We pursue food and drink, day after day, with great **regularity** and **perseverance** and **strong urges**. So, *Go after God's righteousness the same way.*

a) *Slide20b* Not casually *snack* after righteousness. Not a lil *Rolo-of-Righteousness*.
Are we *snacking* or *starving* for it?

(1) As **hunger** and **thirst** are the *keenest of our appetites*, our Lord, plainly means *those whose deepest cravings are after spiritual blessings*.

(2) *Whats your attitude when you hear about righteousness?* (no hum/yawn)
I wouldn't mind being a little more righteous today.

H. **Righteousness**

1. *This word* is **not limited, restricted**, to *the sinners justification before God*.
Instead it denotes that *spiritual & entire conformity* to the instructions of God.

a) *Slide21* Jer.23:5,6 *Behold, the days are coming, says the Lord, That I will raise to David a Branch of righteousness; A King shall reign and prosper, And execute judgment and righteousness in the earth. In His days Judah will be saved, And Israel will dwell safely; Now this is His name by which He will be called: **THE LORD OUR RIGHTEOUSNESS***

2. These are righteous people who want, more than anything else, to see **the worlds evil** (including what is wrong in **their own lives**) overcome by **God's righteousness**.²

a) Jesus promises these people that **God's righteousness** will prevail, and **their desire** for it will be **satisfied**.

IV. *Slide22* **FOR THEY SHALL BE FILLED (6b)**

A. **Filled** - to feed, to fill, to satisfy. *Also, to fatten, to gorge.*

² Shepherd's Notes, Matthew, pg.15.

1. Is.41:17,18 *The poor and needy seek **water**, but there is none, Their tongues fail for **thirst**. I, the Lord, will hear them; I, the God of Israel, will not forsake them. I will **open rivers** in desolate heights, And **fountains** in the midst of the valleys; I will make the wilderness a **pool of water**, And the dry land **springs of water**.*

B. Slide23a In Ps.17:13-15 we realize **awaking to God's face is what will satisfy completely.**

1. Arise, O Lord! Stand against them, and bring them to their knees! Rescue **me** from the wicked with your sword! By the power of your hand, O Lord, destroy those who look to this world for their reward. **But satisfy** the **hunger** of your treasured ones. May their children have **plenty**, leaving an **inheritance** for their descendants. Because I am **righteous**, I will see you. When I awake, I will see you face to face and be **satisfied**.

a) **Our mind** will be satisfied w/His Truth. **Our heart** will be satisfied w/His Love. **Our will** will be satisfied w/His Authority.

2. Slide23b **We need nothing else.** Poem: *This life's a dream, an empty show; But the bright world to which I go. Hath joys substantial & sincere: When shall I awake, & find me there?*

C. **When I awake in Your likeness** – God has in mind **this goal** when He permits you to go through **trials**.

1. **He** goes w/us **into** the furnace (Shad, Mish, Abednego) so that we may be **more like Him** when we **come out of** it.

2. He wants to make **you** more like **His Son**. For whom He foreknew, He also **predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son**. Rom.8:29

a) Don't wait for your future resurrection, we can be changed/**conformed daily** through his **word & prayer**.

b) God's purpose is to make His children like His Son...**And He will succeed**.

3. **So the purpose of prayer** is ultimately to accomplish the will of God...(i.e.) for us to become more like Christ.

a) When **pain** comes your way, just see it as *another blow of the sculptor's chisel, another knocking away of sin & hard edges from your life, in order for you to be*

*made in the image He has in His mind...in **His** image.*

D. **Slide24** John Piper: "If we don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because we have **drunk deeply** and are **satisfied**. It is because we have **nibbled** so long at **the table of the world**. Our soul is **stuffed** with **small things**, and there is **no room for the great**."