Matthew 5:6

**Thirsty Souls & Hungry Hearts**

I. **Slide 1 Announce:**

A. **Slide 2 Baby Dedication:** (2nd) Richy & Lenna Sanchez. *Penelope Aria.*

B. **Slide 3 Wait Until Dark - HS Play**

C. **Slide 4 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.*


E. **Myanmar elections today** (91 running candidates, 2 main). *Haiti elections* (70/2).

F. **Slide 6 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. **Slide 7 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)

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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) What’s your attitude when you hear about righteousness? (ho 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
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."