

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

The Beatitudes III

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Fred R. Coulter

I think it's very important in the days that we're living in, to really concentrate on what our attitudes need to be. Always remember this: In the middle of the political seasons that we're going through, here is an absolute truism that never fails: ***You cannot solve spiritual problems by political means!*** Don't put any hopes in any politician that he's going to do anything to solve the problems of the sins of the nation.

God has to deal with us individually. The most important thing is that we develop the mind of Christ and the character of God, because *God is training us so that we can become the rulers in the Kingdom of God!* That's the thing that we need to concentrate on. Regardless of who you are and where you are, consider this: You are part of the future solution that God is going to bring upon this world. The thing that's missing in the world is:

- the love of God
- the character of God
- the mind of God
- the leading of the Holy Spirit

That's what's missing in the world!

Men wanted to go their own way. God said, 'All right, go your own way. But know that you're going to have problems and difficulties.' This puts you in a special relationship with God, because His eyes are always upon the saints. His thoughts are always upon His people. What He wants us to do is to develop His character so that we can be the solution to the problems of the world.

Let's come to Matt. 5 and continue on with *The Beatitudes*. These are the attitudes that bring us the kind of understanding, the peace of mind, the lack of fear and all of these things are important to have. Here's what we need to do, especially if you start getting down because of problems, difficulties, and the things that are in the world. If you watch the news, it gets worse and worse and you get depressed because of it. When you see news and things, it can depress you and put you down. The way you are lifted up is:

1. read the Word of God
2. concentrate on the *Beatitudes*
3. get on your knees and ask God to help you
 - to give you peace of mind
 - to give you understanding
 - to lead you with His Spirit

- to protect you with His angels

That's my prayer for the brethren everyday!

Those who are sick need to be raised up. Those who are depressed need to be encouraged. This is why we have these teachings of Jesus so that in these times we can focus on what we really need to focus on.

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.” (Matthew 5:6)

Righteousness means:

- the righteousness of God
- the commandments of God
- the Spirit of God

The longer that you have the Spirit of God and the more that you understand about God's way, the less that the glitter and glamour of the world and things in the world have attraction for you. That's just the way it works. It's automatic! There's a blessing for *hungering and thirsting* "...after righteousness, for they shall be filled."

Now let's look at the parallel over here in Luke 6. When you look at all the success of the wicked, as we were discussing earlier about the expensive prostitute ring that Spitzer got caught in, the woman who he 'hooked up with' is now in line to make millions and millions of dollars. You look at that and you think, 'That's awful' — which it is. A lot of people might say, 'That's unfair.' Some other people in the world will say, 'I ought to do the same thing so I can make millions.' You have to look at that and think:

- their reward is now, ***ours is coming***
- theirs is temporary and will be destroyed, ***ours will be eternal***

Luke 6:21: “Blessed *are* those who hunger now, for you shall be filled. Blessed *are* those who weep now, for you shall laugh. Blessed are you when men shall hate you, and when they shall cut you off, and shall reproach *you*, and cast out your name as wicked, for the Son of man's sake” (vs 21-22). We'll cover persecution a little later.

Verse 23: “Rejoice in that day and leap for joy; for behold, great *is* your reward in heaven... [which Christ is going to bring with Him when He

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comes] ...for their fathers did these same things to the prophets.”

I want you to understand, when you look at the financial world today and what is happening, how this is true.

Verse 24: “But **woe** to you, the rich, for you are receiving your consolation!... [it’s all evaporating] ...**Woe** to you who have been filled, for you shall hunger! **Woe** to you who laugh now, for you shall mourn and weep! **Woe** to you when all men shall speak well of you! For their fathers did these same things to the false prophets” (vs 24-26). There you have it!

Let’s look and see how God gives these promises and how these things tie in with what we find in the Old Testament. As I’ve mentioned before and I’ll say again, you can recognize every false preacher when he says—besides telling you to come the Church on Sunday—‘the Law has been done away or the Old Testament has been fulfilled’; you know he’s lying. He may be very convincing, but that’s why you have to go by the Word of God. ***Judge everything by the Word of God!***

Isaiah 41:10: “Do not fear; for I *am* with you; be not dismayed... [discouraged or frustrated] ...for I *am* your God...” The God that made heaven and earth and everything that there is. You’re on His side, and He’s on your side.

“...I will strengthen you; yea, I will help you; yea, I will uphold you with the right hand of My righteousness.” (v 10). That’s why we are to *hunger and thirst after righteousness*. That righteousness includes *all* of God’s way. He always gives us encouragement. Keep this in mind.

Verse 11: “Behold, all those who were angered against you shall be ashamed and confounded; they shall be as nothing. And those who strive against you shall perish. You shall seek them, and shall not find them; men warring against you shall be as nothing, and as a thing of naught” (vs 11-12).

Because ***if God is for you, nothing can be against you!*** It doesn’t matter about:

- physical frailties
- age
- weakness
- whatever

*If God is for you, you can’t have anything, anyone, any comparison to that kind of help, support and love that God gives you. Remember that **Christ died and was raised from the dead to put you into this situation with God!***

Verse 13: “For I, the LORD your God, will hold your right hand, saying to you, “Do not fear; I will help you.” Do not fear, you worm Jacob *and* men of Israel; I will help you,” says the LORD and your Redeemer, the Holy One of Israel” (vs 13-14). Of course, the Church is the Israel of God today. Keep that in mind.

This is what we have to keep in mind in everything; Isaiah 49:8: “Thus says the LORD, ‘In a favorable time I have answered You, and in a day of salvation I have helped You; and I will preserve You, and give You for a covenant of the people, to restore the earth...’” That’s talking about Christ, Himself but also that’s talking about us. Our covenant that we’re going to renew with the coming Passover is the New Covenant for eternal life.

“...to cause them to inherit the wasted inheritances; that You may say to the prisoners, “Go out!” To those who *are* in darkness, “Show yourselves!” They shall feed in the ways, and their pastures shall be in all high places. They shall not hunger nor thirst; nor shall the heat nor sun strike them; for He who has compassion on them shall lead them; even by the springs of water He shall guide them. And I will make all My mountains into roads, and My highways shall be exalted. Behold, these shall come from far; and, lo, these from the north and from the west; and these from the land of Sinim...” (vs 8-12). Which is probably the Far East.

Verse 13: “Sing, O heavens; and be joyful, O earth; and break out *into* singing, O mountains; for the LORD has comforted His people, and will have compassion upon His afflicted.” That’s why we *hunger and thirst after righteousness*.

To the world, this would be a hard thing to take, because you need the Spirit of God to do this. They want all the benefits that we have talked about, here, but they don’t want to have to do the repentance and the obedience.

Psalms 143:1 “Hear my prayer O LORD; give ear unto my supplications; in Your faithfulness and in Your righteousness answer me.” That’s quite a thing.

Stop and think of the work that God is doing in us. The greatest creative work that He is doing is that we are the ‘workmanship of God’ today. Our attitude toward God through *hungering and thirsting after righteousness* and being filled with that, is the number one priority in our lives. When you do that:

- you will see that there will be a change in your attitude
- you will have the strength and character of God’s Spirit

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- you will be able to understand the problems and things that are going on
- you will see the solution and the handiwork of God in doing it

In his prayer he says, v 2: “And do not enter into judgment with Your servant, for in Your sight no one living is righteous.” That is, because of his own works. The way is only through Christ.

Verse 3: “For the enemy has pursued my soul...” Isn’t it interesting that wherever we have *hungering and thirsting* we also have some persecution and that’s exactly as it falls there in Matt. 5.

“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:10)

—because you’re *hungering and thirsting after righteousness*. So, it follows right here, too.

“...he has beaten my life down to the ground; he has made me dwell in darkness, as those long dead. Therefore, my spirit is overwhelmed within me; my heart is weary within me. I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I consider the work of Your hands. I stretch forth my hands unto You; my soul thirsts after You like a parched land. Selah” (vs 3-6). This also tells us why we go through the trials and difficulties that we do. It’s so that we can have this attitude.

It might be interesting if you want to do an interesting word study. Go through the Psalms and look up every verse where it is *hear Me; hear, Lord*. I think you’ll be surprised how many times it’s there.

Verse 7: “Answer me quickly, O LORD; my spirit fails; do not hide Your face from me, lest I be like those who go down into the pit. Cause me to hear Your loving kindness in the morning, for I do trust in You...” (vs 7-8). Trust involves:

- faith
- belief
- yielding to God

“...cause me to know the way in which I should walk, for I lift up my soul unto You. Deliver me, O LORD, from my enemies; I flee to You to hide me. Teach me to do Your will, for You are my God; may Your good Spirit lead me on level ground of uprightness. O LORD, for Your name’s sake quicken me; in Your righteousness bring my soul out of trouble. And in Your mercy cut off my enemies, and destroy all those who afflict my soul, for I am Your servant” (vs 8-12).

That’s quite a Psalm! Look at all of the elements that are in there that are necessary for us for our heart, our mind and our attitude.

Also, as I’m going to bring out concerning some of the things with ‘works and righteousness’ in preparing to do some writing on ‘works,’ I came across something that was, I think, very important.

Let’s just do a little detour and come to Rev. 2 & 3. Let’s understand that God says in many places, that He is going to render to every man ‘according to his works.’ So, works are important. Another way you can tell a false prophet is when he says that you don’t need any works. We’re just going to read a few words, here, just to get the point home.

Revelation 2:2: “I know your works, and your labor, and your endurance...”

- Verse 5: “...repent, and do the first works...”
- Verse 9: “I know your works and tribulation and poverty...”
- Verse 13: “I know your works...”
- Verse 19: “I know your works...and your endurance, and your works; and the last *are* more than the first.”

Revelation 3:1: “...Sardis...I know your works...”

- Verse 8: “I know your works...”
- Verse 15: “I know your works...”

Romans 2:6^[transcriber’s correction]: “Who will render to each one according to his own works.”

Let me read you something on definition. This is from the *Cruden’s Complete Concordance* a definition of ‘works.’ I never thought of it this way. We have, but we haven’t expressed it exactly like it is defined here. Work is some kind of action, but what precedes the action? *The thought!* Here’s the definition of work.

from: *Cruden’s Complete Concordance*:

It is taken to mean: 1) For such business as to prosper in every man’s calling which may be done in six days.

Six days shall you labor and do your work.

2) For any thought, word, or outward action, whether good or evil.

Ecclesiastes 12:14: “For God shall bring every work into judgment...”

Work is put for miracles, such as the work that Jesus did. Works of God denote His work of creation, His works of providence in preserving and governing the world,

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His work of redemption, and particularly the faith of true believers, is called the ‘work of God.’

- about creation
- about all the animals of God
- things like this

We are called ‘His workmanship.’

By good works, are to be understood all manners of duties inward and outward, thoughts as well as words and actions toward God or man, which are commanded in the Law of God or ‘proceed from a pure heart and faith unfeigned.’

Even in the worst desert in the world, the Kalahari Desert, it has a little bit of rain every four or five years and sometimes none for about nine years. Yet, there’s life! There are even people who live there! They don’t live right in the desert, but they live right on the borders of it. When they get close to the Atlantic Ocean, the mist comes in and there’s a whole lot more life there in the Kalahari.

When you start talking about works and judging works, God’s also judging thoughts. That’s why the process of being ‘unleavened’ is that the Holy Spirit reveals to our mind, the inner sins that are there, so we can be cleaned by the ‘washing of the water by the Word.’ This is why *hungering and thirsting after righteousness* becomes so important.

I turned on the television, and here, they were showing a special of a scientist, which was really quite interesting. He was tracking down the male ‘Y’ chromosome of the Europeans and where they were in the world. Actually, he didn’t know it, but he was tracking down the chromosome of Noah, Shem and Japheth, because he didn’t know the Bible.

This is why God looks to the heart, because every action is determined by thought beforehand, whether instantaneously or considered. Here’s how we are to approach God. This is how we are to *hunger and thirst after righteousness*. Notice David’s attitude here.

Anyway, guess where he found a lot of the ‘Y’ chromosome before they came to Europe? *They found it in the Caucasus!* Then they also found, that it went East and North. He was tracking down the various ones that they had taken blood samples of years before in these various areas and he had to go to the most desolate region in Siberia. The furthest north and the furthest east of places were men live.

Psalms 42:1: “As the hart [deer] pants after the water brooks, so my soul pants after You, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God; when shall I come and appear before God?” (vs 1-2). At the resurrection, you’re going to see Him face-to-face! That’s quite something.

I couldn’t get over this. He had to go 100 miles north of the Artic Circle, and there were Nomads. Their families had lived there for centuries. They live in climates where it gets down to—with wind-chill factor—over 100 below zero Celsius. Yet, there are reindeer living there. Because of the long Summer that they have, where they have all the sun, it doesn’t melt down below the permafrost, but when the snow comes, and it comes early, because by the 3rd or 4th of November, the sun sets at 2 o’clock in the afternoon. That means that it’s only up about four hours.

Psa. 63 is one of my favorite Psalms. This is also the attitude that we need to have. Here’s how you *hunger and thirst after righteousness*. That means, all the characteristics of God:

- love
- truth
- mercy
- kindness
- goodness
- temperance
- forbearance

All the fruits of the Holy Spirit; those are all righteousness.

It gets really cold at night. The wind really blows. These people live there. In order to come and meet them when they were driving up there, this one man had to walk in this kind of weather for six days and six nights to meet the special snowmobile that was bringing them there. One of these big, huge snowmobiles that they have, not the little ones that we think of people having today.

Psalms 63:1: “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You!... [don’t wait until it’s too late] ...My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is.” Think of the vastness of a desert. Look at this. We have the blessing today, that in our own living rooms we can watch specials:

- about the earth
- about the heavens

It was amazing how these people lived. The reindeer would kick the snow and eat whatever was under there, because of the snow. They lived off the reindeer. All of their dwellings were made out of reindeer hides. Everything that they had depended upon the reindeer.

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I’m sitting there in the comfort of my home watching this on television. This, I’ll have to tell you, really made an impression upon my mind, that he would go all that far to track down these people. The thing that really got me was that these people lived there!

He was amazed at how they slept because everything is frozen. You even go into their abodes, which are made of reindeer hide, and unless you’re close to the fire, you can see your breath. I thought, ‘I just turned up my thermostat because I’m cold.’ I thought, ‘You spoiled thing!’ I was eating a snack that I got out of the refrigerator while I was watching this go on. Here they’re scraping off reindeer bones to get what they’re going to eat.

They had a special tent for him to sleep in. He got in there and you could see his breath. He knocked up against the side of the leather and it was frozen stiff. Inside this bigger abode, there was a smaller place for him to go to sleep. He didn’t have a sleeping bag. He had to sleep in his clothes. I thought, ‘How do these people bathe?’

If you get a chance to see that, watch it. It ‘blew my mind.’ It made me so thankful for what we have and to realize that everything we have, God has given to us so that we can develop the character of God. Just think. When Christ returns, those poor, pitiful, people are going to be saved out their current circumstances.

Nevertheless, I have to finish the story on going to bed. It showed this other little tent that was inside the other tent and it had a candle in there. No sleeping bag, just his clothes. No pillow. If I don’t have a pillow, my head is ‘wiped out’ and I can’t sleep. I have to have the right sized pillow. It has to be the right height, not too high, not too low, because I’ll get a bad neck going down or a bad neck going up. I can’t understand how people sleep on these huge, great, giant, pillows. It just ‘blows my mind.’ I have my one special one.

Here’s this guy, a redhead Nordic tall fellow, chasing down the genetic gene. They took blood samples of these people before and he went there to confirm it and take more blood samples. Also, to let them know that they are direct relatives of Europeans. They are Mongolians-type, living up here in the Artic.

Anyway, he lay down to sleep and he said, ‘It was warm.’ There, in the middle of 100 below zero Celsius, people live; people exist. Everything they do is to eek out an existence.

But for us, God has given us the opportunity:

- to have His Word
- to understand His Word
- to be called
- to have a relationship with God

I was sitting there at about 1:30 or 2:00 o’clock in the morning, because I went to bed about 7:30 p.m. I thought to myself that I just had to go pray and repent of all the stupidity of the blessings of all the physical indulgences we have here today, that are legal and lawful for us to have, but we just take it for granted.

How quick do you think we would be to gripe and complain if our thermostat went out and it was 10-degrees below outside and it got to be 7-degrees below in the house? I thought, ‘That’s why we have what we have. No other reason but:

- to develop a real relationship with God
- to know the Word of God
- to *hunger and thirst after righteousness*

When they showed the landscape, it was all snow, white, wind blowing, reindeer, you’re out there having to run back and forth to catch them. When they would have to go to another area, they would have to:

- tear down their abodes
- put them all on sleds
- lasso the reindeer
- put the harness on them
- go wherever they were to go to the next place

I thought to myself, ‘O God, we had better really, really take advantage of everything You have blessed us with!’ Sometimes you’ll have something like that that will give you an experience of understanding what God has done. That’s why it says, here:

Psalm 63:1: “O God, You are my God, earnestly I will seek You! My soul thirsts for You. My flesh longs for You, as in a dry and thirsty land where no water is, to see Your power and Your glory—as I have seen You in the sanctuary” (vs 1-2). David saw, probably, some sort of visage of God there in the sanctuary when he had the Ark of the Covenant in a tent in his house.

Verse 3: “Because Your loving kindness is better than life, my lips shall praise You. Thus I will bless You as long as I live; I will lift up my hands in Your name. My soul shall be satisfied as with marrow and fatness; and my mouth shall praise You with joyful lips when I remember You upon my bed and meditate on You in the night watches. Because You have been my help, therefore, **in the shadow of**

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Your wings I will rejoice” (vs 3-7). *God’s unseen protection!*

Verse 8: “My soul follows hard after You; Your right hand upholds me.” That’s really something. That’s the attitude that we need, here.

Psalm 107:1: “O give thanks to the LORD, for He is good, for His steadfast love endures forever.” We’re going to see that the next one that we cover is *be merciful*. All of this ties together.

Verse 2: “So, let the redeemed of the LORD say, whom He has redeemed from the hand of the enemy.” Never forget! God has redeemed us from the hand of Satan, the devil.

Verse 3: “And gathered them out of the lands, from the east, and from the west, from the north, and from the south. They wandered in the wilderness, in a desert by the way; they found no city to dwell in” (vs 3-4). He’s talking about Abraham, Isaac and Jacob and their families. They were sojourners in a strange land.

Verse 5: “Hungry and thirsty, their soul fainted in them. Then they cried...” (vs 5-6). This is also talking about Israel in the wilderness. It’s talking about the scattering of Israel into the world. There are many things involved here.

“...to the LORD in their distress, and He delivered them out of their troubles. And He led them by a straight way, so that they might go to a city to dwell” (vs 6-7). What is our city of habitation? *New Jerusalem!*

Verse 8: “Let them praise the LORD for His goodness, and for His wonderful works to the children of man, For **He satisfies the thirsty soul and fills the hungry soul** with good things” (vs 8-9). Quiet something.

Now, let’s come to Isa. 55 and let’s see how this ties into the Gospel and how it is that when Jesus said, **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be filled.”**

Isaiah 55:1: “Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters... [those are the living waters of God’s Spirit] ...and he who *has* no money...” Also this means that this is something that you cannot buy with money.

“...come, buy and eat. Yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.... [those are referring to the good things of God] ...Why do you spend money for *what is not bread?*...” (vs 1-2). In other words, that which is in the world that does not lead to the true righteousness of Christ.

“...And your labor for *what* never satisfies?...” (v 2) That’s why people get into addictions. They have a ***hungering, thirsting and longing*** and they don’t know how to fill it. Then they get addicted and obsessed in what they are doing.

I heard of a case where a woman is going to sue some gambling casinos for \$20-million because they allowed her to, in three days, stay up night and day and gambled and lost all of her money. Why? Why do people get into things like that? *Because:*

- they don’t know why they’re here
- they don’t know where they’re going
- they don’t realize that the only thing that can fill them is the Spirit of God

This is what he is talking about here. God says that the way that you fill that void is this:

“...Hearken diligently to Me, and eat *what is* good, and let your soul delight itself in fatness.... [the righteousness of God] ...Bow down your ear, and come to Me; hear, and your soul shall live; and I will make an everlasting covenant with you, even the sure mercies of David” (vs 2-3).

Let’s come to the New Testament and see how Jesus expressed it here in John 6. The only thing that will ever satisfy that void in a person’s life is obtained only by:

- repentance
- forgiveness
- baptism
- the receipt of the Holy Spirit of God
- growing in grace and knowledge

nothing else will do it:

- no amount of drinking
- no amount of gambling
- no amount of working
- no amount of money
- no amount of success in this world can possibly fill that void

God made it that way so that we come to Him!

Now, let’s see what Jesus said after they wanted to have the manna. They were chasing Him down because He fed the 5,000 and they said, ‘Oh, boy! This is good! Look at this, we won’t have to work any more. We’ll jus follow this guy around and make Him king and He’ll provide bread for us.’

Surely Obama, if he could do that, would really be thought of as the Messiah, but he can’t do that. He’s a mere mortal like everybody else, in spite of what his pastor likens him unto Christ; he’s not. *Christ is Christ* and the political means aren’t going to solve this and Obama can’t do it anymore than anybody else.

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Let’s see what Jesus said for people who want to have everything given to them. That’s the whole point of it. Too many people want to have everything given to them. God will give it to you, but you’ve got to work for it. God will provide for you, **but you have to do it His way!**

Spiritually, all of the striving for the physical food is never going to satisfy. Jesus answered them when they said, ‘How did You get back over here on the other side of the Sea of Galilee when we were looking for You over there so we could find some more bread.’

John 6:26: “Jesus answered them and said, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, you do not seek Me because you saw *the* miracles, but because you ate the bread and were satisfied. Do not labor *for* the food that perishes, but *for* the food that endures unto eternal life...” (vs 26-27). That comes through Christ. That comes down to what we are going to be doing concerning the Passover.

“...which the Son of man shall give to you...” (v 27). It can only come from God the Father through Christ. You can’t come to the Father unless you come through Christ. It doesn’t matter who you are or where you are, you sooner or later are going to have to come to God through Christ, because that’s the way that it is, either in this life or in your next life. It’s still going to have to be that way. So, He says:

“...for Him has God the Father sealed.’ Therefore, they said to Him, ‘What shall we do, in order that we ourselves may do the works of God?’ (vs 27-28). ‘What can we do that we can have this bread provided for us by something we can do?’ In other words, ‘Lord, how did You cause the fish and bread to multiply? You tell us so we can do it.’

Verse 29: “Jesus answered and said to them, ‘This is the work of God: that you believe in Him Whom He has sent.’” Just like this definition of work. It has to do with thought, and belief has to do with thought; “...that you believe in Him Whom He has sent.” So they said, ‘Okay, that’s good enough.’

Verse 30: “Therefore, they said to Him, ‘What sign will You perform, that we may see *it* and believe You? What work will You do? Our fathers ate manna in the wilderness, as it is written: “He gave them bread to eat *that came down* from heaven.”’” (vs 30-31). “That sounds fair enough. What do we have to do?”

Verse 32: “Then Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you, Moses did not give you the bread from heaven; but **My Father gives you the true Bread from heaven.**’” In other words, what is the

true purpose of human life? Just to eat and survive? **No!**

Verse 33: “For the Bread of God is He Who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world.” You can eat all the food and bread you want, but you’re still going to die.

Verse 34: “Therefore, they said to Him, ‘Lord, give this bread to us always.’ Jesus said to them, ‘**I am the Bread of Life...** [Whom we are seeking after] **...the one who comes to Me shall never hunger; and the one who believes in Me shall never thirst at any time**’” (vs 34-35).

You now are fulfilling the very purpose as to why you were created and God is still creating in you, that life, character, and so forth. That’s why we need to ***hunger and thirst after righteousness!***

Verse 49: “Your fathers ate manna in the desert, but they died.” In other words, even if you did have manna, you’re still going to die. You need something greater than manna.

Verse 50: “This is the Bread, which comes down from heaven so that anyone may eat of it and not die.... [the way of God] **...I am the living Bread...** [which He gave as a complete sacrifice, which we’ll cover as we lead up to the Passover] ...which came down from heaven; if anyone eats of this bread, he shall live forever; and **the bread that I will give is even My flesh, which I will give for the life of the world**” (vs 50-51). He laid His life down and no one took it from Him.

Verse 52: “Because of this, the Jews were arguing with one another, saying, ‘How is He able to give us *His* flesh to eat?’ Therefore, Jesus said to them, ‘Truly, truly I say to you... [this is kind of like rubbing some salt in the wound] ...unless you eat the flesh of the Son of man, and drink His blood, you do not have life in yourselves” (vs 52-53). Even His disciples couldn’t understand this, because they had not yet had the Passover of the New Covenant.

Verse 54: “The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood has eternal life, and I will raise him up in the last day; for My flesh is truly food, and My blood is truly drink. **The one who eats My flesh and drinks My blood is dwelling in Me, and I in him**” (vs 54-56). That’s a lot for these people to try and understand, which is also a good way of dividing the true believers from the flatterers.

Here is the key. Here is the answer, which they missed, which we need to learn:

Verse 57: “As the living Father has sent Me, and **I live by the Father; so also the one who eats Me shall live by Me.**”

“Blessed *are* those who hunger and thirst after righteousness...”

“Blessed *are* those who have been persecuted...”

That’s the whole key! *So, let’s ‘hunger and thirst after righteousness’ and we will be filled. The greatest filling is going to come at the resurrection!*

All Scripture from *The Holy Bible In Its Original Order, A Faithful Version*

Scriptural References:

- 1) Matthew 5:6
- 2) Luke 6:21-26
- 3) Isaiah 41:10-14
- 4) Isaiah 49:8-13
- 5) Psalm 143:1-3
- 6) Matthew 5:10
- 7) Psalm 143:3-12
- 8) Revelation 2:2, 5, 9, 13, 19
- 9) Revelation 3:1, 8, 15
- 10) Romans 2:6
- 11) Ecclesiastes 12:14
- 12) Psalm 42:1-2
- 13) Psalm 63:1-8
- 14) Psalm 107:1-9
- 15) Isaiah 55:1-3
- 16) John 6:26-35, 49-57

Also referenced: Book: *Cruden’s Complete Concordance* by Alexander Cruden

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