

When Not to Be Content
2024-09-15

Matthew 5:6

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.”

Scripture teaches us to be content with every gift from our Heavenly Father.

- When we are **content with whatever** the Lord **provides**, that **says** to the world, **“Jesus Christ is my treasure”**.
 - **Never be content** with where you are **at spiritually**: in **maturity** or **Christ-likeness** (holy).

Jesus uses the strongest impulses in the natural realm to represent the depth of desire Christians should have for holiness and righteousness. Matthew 5:6, Philippians 3:12-15, Psalm 42:1-2,

- **Focus not** on the actions of **satisfying** **hungering** and **thirsting**, **but the craving**.
 - **The starving and thirsting** have an **all-consuming passion** for **food** and **water**.
 - **They do not** have to be **begged to eat** if they’re **hungry** or **drink** if they’re **thirsty**.

In **Greek**, **verbs** like **hunger** and **thirst** normally have **objects** that indicate **partialness**.

- **Hunger** and **thirst** for **some** food and **water**, **not** for **all** the food and **water** in the world.

Here Jesus uses words that make **righteousness** an unqualified, **unlimited object** of **hunger** and **thirst** for **all** the **righteousness** there is.

- **Christians** are **made righteous** in God’s sight through Jesus’ **imputed righteousness: justification**. 2 Corinthians 5:21.
 - **Here** the **present participle** signifies **continuous longing** and **seeking: sanctification**.

Hunger and **thirst** for **righteousness** is just as **real** and **natural** as **hunger** and **thirst** of **fleshly cravings**.

- By **God’s grace** we **hunger** and **thirst** after **righteousness** the **same** way we **daily** **hunger** and **thirst** for **food** and **drink**.
 - **Pursuing** righteousness is a **sign** of **spiritual life**.... the **dead** do **not eat** or **drink**. 2 Peter 1:5-10, John 6:35
- **The spiritually hungry** do **not desire Jesus** *and anything else* to **satisfy**, but **only Jesus**.
 - **Looking** for **satisfaction** in the **lesser** means constant **cravings**. See Captain Barbosa quote at the end
- **All** the **soul needs** for **satisfaction**, **joyful** and **life** you **already possess** in **Jesus Christ**.

Our part is to **seek** and **holiness**, **His part** is to **satisfy**. Matthew 5:6, Psalm 107:9, 23:1-3

- **Satisfied** is a **very strong** and **graphic** word. It was originally **applied to feed or fatten an animal**.
 - **It's different** than '**satisfied**': It's not **like eating pie until you can't eat more**, "**so satisfied**".
 - Here, it is **so satisfying** that your appetite increases and **wants more**.
 - **It's not 1 big meal** but a daily, **continual feasting**. *See DeYoung quote at the end*

Ultimately only God makes us like Jesus, but **holiness** is a **collaborative effort between you** and the Holy Spirit. *See The Well in M&E 9/13 quote at the end. Philippians 2:12-13 & 1:6, 1 Corinthians 9:25-27*

- **Sanctification** and holiness **usually stalls** for **lack of effort on our part**.
 - We coast or **slack and blame** a lack of **fruit** on God's **sovereignty**. *Proverbs 26:15, Romans 6:1, 14*
- **Mild antinomianism**: instead of repenting and pursuing holiness we **abuse grace**, and are **content to live casual, indifferent, sinful** lives.
 - **It seems liberating** but **leaves us trapped** in a **sin and excuse cycle**.
 - **The cost is great: spiritual starvation**.
- **Grace covers failures** but it **includes** the Holy Spirit's **help to turn from sin** and obey.

Never be content with where you are at spiritually. Rejoice and delight in things you are **saved** from and pursue things Jesus has **saved you to**: **freedom, obedience**, and holiness.

- **Don't be content** with **little holiness**, biblical and theological **knowledge**, a **slightly better marriage**, little personal **spiritual growth** and **fruit**, etc.
 - **God desires** so much **more** for **YOU**. *Psalm 63:1, 2 Corinthians 1:20, 1 Timothy 6:6*
- You'll experience **more contentment** in life **if you always** have **healthy discontentment** with **where you are at spiritually** that **drives you** to **pursue Christ-likeness more**.

Pirates of the Caribbean.....Capt. Barbossa

Drink would not satisfy.... food turned to ash in our mouths.... nothing could slake our lust.... we are cursed men.... compelled by greed but now we are consumed by it.

Kevin DeYoung

"Holiness is the sum of a million little things —avoidance of little evils, setting aside of little bits of worldliness and little acts of compromise, the putting to death of little inconsistencies and little indiscretions, the attention to little duties and little dealings, the hard work of little self-denials and little self-restraints, the cultivation of little benevolences and little forbearances."

Morning and Evening, September 13th

We dig a well, but heaven fills it with rain.

The means are connected with the end, but they do not of themselves produce it. Work is not lost, but yet it does not supersede divine help.