



"And this is the commandment we have from Him, that the one who loves God should love his brother also." 1 John 4: 21

Sunday – July 30, 2023

To Know Christ...

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

(Matthew 5:6) We understand the sentiment of someone saying, "I'm craving steak, cake, or a milkshake." They craft a plan in order to satisfy their craving. Then they execute their plan to perfection ... Sweet Satisfaction! So, why do we spiritually starve when it comes to righteousness? It is either feast or famine!

Have you considered that Jesus had a very healthy appetite for righteousness? God opened the doors to satisfy Jesus' cravings for it! There is a reason the Blessings of the "Be Attitudes" were being proclaimed by Jesus, they were ALL His Attitudes! When John the Baptist tried to prevent Jesus from being baptized, Jesus said, **"Permit it at this time; for in this way it is fitting for us to fulfill all righteousness."** (Matthew 3:15) Then John permitted Him! What was Jesus focused on satisfying? **RIGHTEOUSNESS!** When we meet resistance, do we still hunger & thirst for righteousness as Jesus did? He crafted His plan to go to John the Baptist. Even when met with opposition, Jesus spoke of fulfilling righteousness. Then God moved John's heart to permit righteousness to be satisfied. Would God do the same for us who have been made the righteousness of God in Jesus? (2 Corinthians 5:21) Certainly! This is HIS promise!

When we continually hunger and thirst for righteousness, He promises us that we will be filled. It is like sitting down to a delicious and nutritious meal. You eat and then are satisfied, but you get hungry again after a few hours, and He fills you again. Cooking requires preparation and effort! Scripture gives the recipe for righteousness through Jesus; the guidebook shows us what Jesus' righteousness looked like and even allows us to see how God responded in righteousness to the lives of those made in His image. Continuing to hunger and thirst for righteousness will mature us more and more into godliness (aka righteous behavior). That is the satisfaction that keeps on drawing us closer and closer to perfecting our imitation of Christ! That's true SATISFACTION! When that unquenchable desire for righteousness abides, we will be met with

persecution. **“Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.”** (Matthew 5:10) Since we continue our craving for righteousness as we also continue in godly (Holy) behavior even enduring persecution, it only has one outcome ... the kingdom of heaven is OURS! What are the cravings of your spiritual appetite? (Here are a few more righteous bites ... Matthew 5:20; 6:1; & 6:33)

- Carey Terry