

Blessed Are the Hungry

- I. **“Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven” (Matthew 5:3).**
 - A. This promise of the Kingdom is not just a nice, moral platitude; it is an earth-shaking announcement of God’s willingness to partner with us. We pray “Your Kingdom come. Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven” (Matthew 6:10). In response God brings heaven’s rule to earth. Through us the Father is investing in Jesus’ inheritance (Psalm 2:6-8).
 - B. We also proclaim the Kingdom and demonstrate Jesus’ power and authority with signs and wonders (Matthew 10:7-8).
 1. We give the Kingdom away “making disciples of all nations” (Matthew 28:18-20). And in some generation the task of reaching all the nations will be finished, and “then the end will come” (Matthew 24:14).
 2. God has given the Church the keys to the Kingdom (Matthew 16:18-19).

- II. **What does “Blessed are the poor in spirit” mean?**
 - A. Billy Graham said if we substitute the word “humble” for “poor,” we could grasp what Jesus had in mind.
 - B. But this verse comes alive for me if we insert the word “hungry.”
 1. God grants the Kingdom to those who are “hungry in spirit” or have hungry hearts. Hunger is the dominant concern for those who are poor.
 2. When we are hungry enough to invite Jesus into our lives, He fills our hunger with His presence (Revelation 3:20; Matthew 11:28-30).
 3. In fact, our hunger for Jesus and His cause opens the door for repeated fillings of love and power. He baptizes us with his Holy Spirit, and we take on his purposes for the world (Acts 1:4-8; Ephesians 5:15-20).

- III. **“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled” (Matthew 5:6).**
 - A. God makes us hungry for certain righteous works, because they have been “prepared in advance” for us to do (Ephesians 2:10). There is joy here as we enter the Master’s happiness (Matthew 25:21-23).
 - B. There are also general righteous works that God always loves. Because He likes them, we feel His pleasure when we do these things. I look for places in the Bible that reveal what God likes. I always know there is reward for doing these things (E.g., Isaiah 58:6-11).
 - C. There is an amazing filling of joy, peace, and love when we are about the Father’s business (Matthew 25:21-23; Luke 10:8-9, 16-20).