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| **SERIES** | **The Pursuit of Happiness** |
| **BIBLE** | **Matthew 5:6 (Isaiah 55:1-3; Isaiah 58:6-12)** |
| **TITLE/TOPIC** | **Happy Hunger** |
| **OVERVIEW** | What do we desire? We are going to focus on dual longings that go hand-in-hand. One is our longing to be right with God. And the other is to see the world around us made right.  Both fly in the face of our sinful instincts. In our pride, we think we can attain our own righteousness before God, and in our comfort, we hide from the brokenness around us, not wanting to diminish our happiness. The beauty of the Gospel is that we experience the deep satisfaction that only God’s acceptance of us can provide, while also being called to long for and work towards the making right of all things. |
| **SCRIPTURE BREAKDOWN** | Intro: Pass out a dozen donuts to people in the congregation. Ask who people think is blessed this morning?  *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled.” –*  Matthew 5:6   1. **Happy are those who don’t settle for a satisfaction that can’t truly satisfy.**   *“Come, everyone who thirsts,*  *come to the waters; and he who has no money,     come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk     without money and without price. 2Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread,     and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen diligently to me, and eat what is good,     and delight yourselves in rich food.”*  Isaiah 55:1-3  We all have an innate hunger and thirst, a desire. We desire to belong, to be seen, safe, soothed, and secure as Curt Thompson says in his book “Soul of Desire.” We are also people who take the path of least resistance, so we try to satisfy our desires with “that which is not bread… and that which does not satisfy.” We work so hard for that promotion, hoping that will satisfy. We think the new relationship we are longing for will meet our need for acceptance. We fantasy that we would just be happy if we had enough money, when true satisfaction comes to those who know that they can’t achieve it on their own. In Jesus announcement of the kingdom of God being made available to people, he is announcing where desire can truly be filled, in him and by him alone.  *“But now the righteousness of God has been manifested apart from the law, although the Law and the Prophets bear witness to it— 22 the righteousness of God through faith in Jesus Christ for all who believe.” –* Romans 3:21-22   1. **Happy are those who don’t settle for a satisfaction that neglects the world around them.**   *“Is not this the fast that I choose:*  *to loosen the bonds of wickedness,*  *to undo the straps of the yoke,*  *to let the oppressed go free,*  *and to break every yoke?*  *7 Is it not to share your bread with the hungry*  *and bring the homeless poor into your house;*  *when you see the naked, to cover him,*  *and not to hide yourself from your own flesh?*  *8 Then shall your light break forth like the dawn,*  *and your healing shall spring up speedily;*  *your righteousness shall go before you;*  *the glory of the Lord shall be your rear guard.*  *9 Then you shall call, and the Lord will answer;*  *you shall cry, and he will say, ‘Here I am.’*  *If you take away the yoke from your midst,*  *the pointing of the finger, and speaking wickedness,*  *10 if you pour yourself out for the hungry*  *and satisfy the desire of the afflicted,*  *then shall your light rise in the darkness*  *and your gloom be as the noonday.*  *11 And the Lord will guide you continually*  *and satisfy your desire in scorched places*  *and make your bones strong;*  *and you shall be like a watered garden,*  *like a spring of water,*  *whose waters do not fail.*  *12 And your ancient ruins shall be rebuilt;*  *you shall raise up the foundations of many generations;*  *you shall be called the repairer of the breach,*  *the restorer of streets to dwell in.”*  Isaiah 58:6-12  Isaiah was prophesying to a people that were doing the “religious” fasts, yet choosing to neglect the world around them. They were settling for a satisfaction of being the people of God without adopting the practices that should mark the people of God. We can be just as guilty. We proclaim that righteousness and satisfaction is ours in Christ and then neglect the call to live righteously. Instead may our deep well of satiated desire in Christ serve as the catalyst to notice the needs of those around us, and yearn for and work towards the satisfaction of those needs, both spiritually and physically. |
| **GOSPEL** | How does this sermon bring people to the Gospel?  “For our sake he made him to be sin who knew no sin, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.” – 2 Cor 5:21  We don’t deserve righteousness. We can’t earn it. But Christ himself has secured it for us. Believe in him today and experience the right relationship that can truly satisfy. |
| **NEXT**STEPS | Begin | Connect | Engage | Grow | Disciple  **BEGIN –** Believe in Christ today!  **ENGAGE –** Each one of us has been given gifts and passions to serve the church and the world around. Notice the needs of the people around you and yearn for and work towards meeting those needs, both spiritually and physically. |

**Resources:**

* “The Soul of Desire” – Curt Thompson
  + *“Human behavior that is intentional is primarily learned through mimicry, by watching the intentional behavior of others. Our desires are no different, as they are expressions of our intention. Therefore, I want something because you want it. And if you’re a person of authority in my world, one whose admiration and affection I long for, I will tend to want the things you want. As a result, a great deal of what how I desire has less to do with the object of my desire and more to do with being able to compete in my world, with being adequate and acceptable. Indeed, my desire is not so much about an object as it is about the condition of my relationality, with whom and how I am living relationally. Thus, when “I hunger and thirst (desire) for righteousness [right relationality],” I will be filled. (Matthew 5:6)*
  + *“We long for a world of goodness and beauty, of biblical justice, of putting all things right. We long for a world in which our relationships with those of the other gender, ethnic people group, and political party, as well as with the material world, are governed by kindness and honesty… We want the joy of others’ not least God’s utter delight at being in our presence. We long to encounter and be encountered by others without exploitation on anyone’s part.”*
* “Righteousness is a relational term. It simply means doing right by the other party in the relationship. Two expressions of righteousness are piety — doing right by God — and justice — doing right by fellow human beings.” - Carl Ellis
* Any podcasts or writings of James K.A. Smith. “You Are What You Love”