**PURSUE (The Beatitudes) – Wk 3 – The Hungry**

**Are you hungry – 5 pics on my que - Today we are going to talk about being hungry.**

**We are going through Jesus Beatitudes**

**Beatitudes (Latin beatus) Blessings that transcend circumstances –**

**A deep state of bliss. They describe a truly God blessed life.**

**It was a life of - repressive govts, manipulative religious groups, unreliable politicians, and deep generational racial hatred.**

**With this Jesus walks up a hill near the Sea of Galilee to share a kingdom perspective of life. Some of the best known- least understood teachings of Jesus.**

**Matthew 5:3 Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**

**5:4 Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.**

**5:5 Blessed are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.**

**The beatitudes are to be given together. They build upon each other.**

**\* Poor in spirit – realizing you are spiritually empty = leads to salvation**

**\* Mourning – is a brokenness that leads to the comfort of the given HS**

**\* Meekness – is a release of control and submission to Jesus**

**After submission comes a new direction in life – new pursuits**

**Today – a pursuit that leads to a truly satisfied life.**

**THE PURSUIT**

1. **Our lives are all in pursuit of something**

**From the moment we are born, we are in constant hunger.**

**We spend our whole life pursuing - sareer, adventure, entertainment, pleasure, prominence, popularity, notoriety, family, money, knowledge, health, a reputation, a legacy – we are born hungry from day one.**

1. **We pursue that which we think will give us value and happiness**

**We all seek happiness – it’s written into our declaration of independence. “Life – liberty – and the pursuit of happiness”**

**When is a teacher most happy – when they teach - a runner - carpenter, painter, singer, hunter, cook, parent. We are most happy when we are doing what brings pleasure and value. What are you pursuing?**

**According to Jesus – if you are seeking value and happiness, you will never find lasting value happiness. Don’t pursue them and you will find**

**When we pursue these things alone – we end up still empty, exhausted, frustrated, and unsatisfied.**

**Ecclesiastes 1:14 - I have seen all the things that are done under the sun; all of them are meaningless, a chasing after the wind.**

**Ecc phrases - The pursuit of education - like chasing after the wind / I denied myself no pleasure – it left me empty / I did everything I wanted – was nothing to gain / I worked hard – it was vanity and futile – like chasing the wind / I was the best at many things – this too was meaningless / I was a good person… futile.**

**Solomon – I’ve done it all - all my pursuits were meaningless…**

**Jeremiah 17:9 The heart is deceitful above all things and beyond cure. Who can understand it?**

**The jacked-up nature of our hearts – reveals our pursuits are not always healthy and often out of alignment.**

1. **We were created to be satisfied by only one thing**

**God has put eternity in our hearts – we have an inconsolable longing.**

**\* Rolling Stones – can’t get no satisfaction**

**We tend to turn good things (education, goals, success, fitness, family) into god things. Idols - pursuits we chase above Jesus.**

**We are made by God and for God – created to reflect God’s glory.**

**Colossians 1:16 – For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth, visible and invisible, whether thrones or powers or rulers or authorities; all things have been created through him and for him.**

**Romans 11:36 For from Him and through Him and to Him are all things. To Him be the glory forever! Amen.**

**We will never be truly satisfied until we align with the will of God and his purpose for our life.**

**Using a chair as a ladder – it might get the job done. But that is not what it is designed for. We are most happy / blessed / useful and fulfilled - when we live according to the design of God.**

**The problem is we live in a world that is filled with things that entice our selfish ambitions and desires – using what God created and designed for our selfish purposes.**

**The solution is not entertainment or teaching – new pleasures and possibilities – different people and new appetites.**

**But rather a whole different pursuit all together.**

**Isaiah 55:2 Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food. (this is about a hunger in life – this life will not satisfy) 3 “Come to me with your ears wide open. Listen, and you will find life. I will make an everlasting covenant with you. I will give you all the unfailing love I promised to David. (NLT)**

**Psalm 107:8Let them give thanks to the LORD for His lovingkindness, And for His wonders to the sons of men! 9 For He has satisfied the thirsty soul, And the hungry soul He has filled with what is good.**

**Until – we pursue the one thing – we will have a constant restlessness for things. St. Augustine - Thou madest us for Thyself, and our heart is restless, until it rests in Thee.**

**Jesus has something to say about this hunger - Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.**

**BLESSED ARE THOSE WHO THOSE WHO ARE HUNGRY & THIRSTY**

**Let’s take look at this – piece by piece**

**The true blessing of God (in the beatitudes) begins with a poverty spirit (broken dependency), mourning and grief, submission, and now to hunger and thirst… not things you might assume are a blessing**

**- yet they bring blessing in heaven, on earth, and a deep satisfaction.**

* **To hunger and thirst**

**They would have understood physical hunger and thirst all too well. Lack of clean water, famine, crop struggles, Rome tyranny & taxes.**

**This is not a little hungry or a tad parched… This phrase is referring to those that are starving…**

**Picture - crawling thru a desert you have little interest in other things. Nothing will get in their way – there is a desperation.**

* **Starving - for righteousness**

**Righteousness means - those in agreement with God. To align with God’s standards. Not something accomplished by us – but by God.**

**To get in the same lane with God – HOV fast lane**

**And – not for his blessing, but for ours.**

**To hunger for the will of God and ways of God – to pursue his perspective and passions. To crave the very grace of God.**

**Psalm 42:1 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. (In a dry place – finally water – drinking feverishly) 2. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?**

**David literally wrote this song while in the Desert of Judah - Psalm 63:1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.**

**This is not simply the pursuit of God – but of his righteousness.**

**Jesus says it again - Matthew 6:33 But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.**

**Why Not Just Pursue God?**

1. **To hunger for His righteousness is to hunger to know God’s ways**

**It is to seek his will, way, views, character, his standards.**

1. **To hunger for His righteousness is to hunger a changed life**

**This is about a 180 of our life- diff direction- actions & attitude**

1. **To hunger for His righteousness is to hunger for Jesus**

**Righteousness is not in self – but in Jesus cross alone. To know him – not just information or his power.**

**Jesus ends the sermon on the mount with – Matthew 7:22 Many will say to me on that day, ‘Lord, Lord, did we not prophesy in your name (preached your words) and in your name drive out demons and in your name perform many miracles?’ (signs, wonders, power) 23 Then I will tell them plainly, ‘I never knew you. Away from me, you evildoers!’**

**You say you know about me – experienced my power… but you don’t KNOW me. You don’t know my ways - Therefore, we are not family. Who are you?**

* **They will be filled (satisfied)**

**A spiritual huger = filled with spiritual food.**

**The answer to our hunger is not to withdrawal from the world – or run away. The answer is to run to God. And you can do that anywhere.**

**If you could eat anything without gaining eight and never get full, what would it be?**

**Unlike regular food - the more spiritual food you eat – the more your appetite grows, the more your hungry & thirst increases. But you also get filled and sense of satisfaction – as you poor it our for others.**

**How is your spiritual appetite? One of the greatest dangers of a person’s life – the absence of spiritual hunger.**

**No pursuit of God – desire to know God, his word, his ways, his will, dead to his word spoken, defensive when heard – if this is you… you must return to beatitude 1 – poor in spirit.**

**You can sometimes see the health of something by its hunger – when our pets began to get old – the vet told us - as along as they’re hungry.**

**Are you hungry?**

**Those that are spiritually hungry – that seek, chase, listen, engage, ask questions, read, show up, plug in, serve… you will be filled.**

**Proverbs 21:21** **Whoever pursues righteousness and love finds life, prosperity and honor.**

**I can’t make you want God – I can’t shoot in into you. It’s not a drug, a potion, a mystical chant, or membership - You must be hungry.**

**The hunger identifies those who are His.**

**The hunger is a direct result of the first three Beatitudes.**

 **(Luke 10:27, 1 Cor 16:22, 2 Thess 2:10)**

**Are you hungry? Are you thirsty?**

**It is that hunger - that**

* **That leads people to the salvation of Jesus Christ.**
* **That leads to a hunger to grow in the grace and knowledge of Jesus, so they can be a light to those around them.**
* **That doesn’t settle for spiritual snacks, but seeks to dive deep in the word**
* **That causes one to lay down their life for the cause of Christ**
* **To face persecution & stand strong w/ love in the face of an enemy**
* **That gives up possessions so that others might possess the gift of**
* **That brings us to our knees in humility to worship our Almighty**
* **That seeks makes history – and turn the world upside down**
* **That desires the unfathomable profound reality of God in their life, not a make believe churchy faith.**

**Are you hungry? I am!!!**

**The powerful reality of this verse is this**

**Unless you are hungry you will not be filled**

**Have you lost your appetite?**

**By the power of the Holy Spirit - James 4:8 Come near to God and he will come near to you. Wash your hands, you sinners, and purify your hearts, you double-minded.**

**Written during a time of incredible desperation and hunger for God - Jeremiah 29:11 For I know the plans I have for you,” declares the Lord, “plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future. (they were in a place of brokenness – it was there they were hungry for God – God allowed deep trials to break them) 12 Then (in that place of hunger) you will call on me and come and pray to me, and I will listen to you. 13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. 14 I will be found by you,” declares the Lord… (with that attitude of hunger – God will bring them home)**

**Reality is -**

**\* We will die without food & water - designed to need spiritual food**

**\* We are designed to be hungry every day- designed w/ inner longing**

**\* We are designed to eat fresh every day - We must keep our walk fresh**

**Food goes bad - must be kept fresh. You replenish the fridge. (2 Pe 3:18)**

**What are you hungry and thirsty for?**

**Are you hungry for unhealthy things? (Life Teams)**

**To understand our spiritual poverty – leads to salvation**

**To grieve and mourn our sin – leads to the comfort of salvation**

**To humbly submit to God – leads to a new life of peace and provision**

**To pursue the will of God – leads to a filled satisfied life – blessed.**