

Are you hungry?

Matthew 5:1-6

October 7, 2007

When Jesus saw the crowds, he went up the mountain, and after he sat down, the people gathered around him and he began to teach them ...

Blessed are the poor in spirit, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to them.

Blessed are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

Blessed are those who are humble, for they will inherit the earth.

Blessed are those who are hungry and thirsty for righteousness, for they will be filled.

Are you hungry? Are you hungry for righteousness? Do you have a gnawing hunger, an aching hunger, a relentless thirst, to see justice done, to see goodness prevail, to see the coming of peace to the earth?

Are you hungry for the day when no child will be left behind, when every child will have plenty to eat and nice clothes to wear, when every child will have a safe and comfortable home in which to live, when every child will have ample opportunity and ready encouragement to develop and express the unique capabilities God has put into them?

Are you hungry for the day when teachers and parents and human resource managers will recognize the multiple intelligences -- linguistic and mathematical and spatial and kinesthetic and musical and interpersonal and intrapersonal and naturalist -- and won't try to fit every child or every job applicant into the same round hole?

Are you hungry for ability awareness, for the day when we will reap the benefits of recognizing each person's abilities, instead of bemoaning their disabilities?

Are you hungry for an end to drug dealing and sexual enticement and credit card pandering, to anything and everything that preys on the vulnerabilities of the young?

Are you hungry for the day when husbands will respect and affirm their wives, when wives will encourage and affirm their husbands, when children will respect and listen to their parents, when parents will affirm and listen to their children?

Are you hungry for the day when men and women will be faithful to their marriage vows, for a lifetime?

Are you hungry for the day when generosity will overwhelm greed, when people and nations will make decisions and take actions based on mutual benefit instead of individual gain?

Are you hungry for the day when people and nations will make sacrifices, even deep and risky sacrifices, just to ease another's suffering, just to soothe another's pain?

Are you hungry for the day when there will be equal pay for equal work, when all glass ceilings will be shattered, when every worker -- man or woman, blue collar or white collar, domestic or foreign -- will be able to take pride in their work and take home enough to provide for their families?

Are you hungry for the day when forgiveness will supplant revenge, when revenge will no more be the first thought of an injured man or a offended nation, when revenge won't be thought of at all, when the inexorable cycle of violence, of injury and retaliation, will be brought to an end?

Are you hungry for the abolition of the death penalty, for the day when people are convinced that no good and no justice ever comes from taking life?

Are you hungry for the day when nations will study war no more?

Are you hungry for the day when not a single nuclear weapon exists, anywhere?

Are you hungry for an end to name-calling, for an end to abuse of every kind -- verbal and physical, for the day when people can walk and work and meet and play without fear and with respect?

Are you hungry for the day when artists will receive the same accolades as athletes, when teachers will be considered as vital to the well-being of any society as business executives?

Are you hungry for an end to dishonesty and inauthenticity and manipulation? Are you hungry for the day when people will mean what they say and say what they mean, when people will be just as eager to listen as to speak, when people will keep their promises?

Are you hungry for an end to fraud and deceptive advertising and spin?

Are you hungry for the day when candidates for public office will not be elected because they have better name-recognition, better handlers, more money, more star-power, but because they have wisdom and integrity and humility and character?

Are you hungry for the day when we will treat the land and the sea and the air and all the plants and animals that fill them as ends in themselves, as things of precious value in and of themselves, not just as means toward the satisfaction of our needs?

Are you hungry for the day when we are as passionate about justice as we are about our favorite sports teams?

Are you hungry for the day when our church will look like a place where everybody is welcome, where everybody belongs?

Are you hungry for the day when all humanity will pray to God, *Your will be done*, and do it?

Are you hungry? Are you hungry for righteousness? Do you have a gnawing hunger, an aching hunger, a relentless thirst, to see justice done, to see goodness prevail, to see the coming of peace to the earth? Are you hungry?

If you are ... you are blessed! You are blessed because you will be filled. What you seek, you will find. What you ask for, you will be given.