



John Battaglia, D. Min.
PO Box 891, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-355-4161//Twitter @johnabattaglia
John.battaglia@capitolcom.org

Is It Lunch Time Yet?

Weekly Bible Study Schedule

Tuesday, February 28, 7:00 AM in HHR #5
(breakfast provided)

Tuesday, February 28, 7:00 PM in Office #225
(Sen. Wayne Wallingford's office)

**Capitol Commission is non-partisan and
non-denominational**

NEW

***Thursday, March 2, 7:00 AM in HHR #5**
*Explore themes of the Bible – video and
informal conversation.*

**“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst
for righteousness, for they shall be
satisfied.” (Matt. 5:6, ESV)**

With penetrating insight, Jesus exposed the brittle veneer of all self-righteous Pharisees, then and now, as He explained the essence of authentic righteousness. The fourth beatitude is pregnant with hope, joy and the promise of satisfaction.

Appetite is a sign of a healthy body. It's common to lose one's appetite when sick. Could we agree, everyone is acutely aware of what a hunger-pang feels like? We all hunger for food. The question is: to what degree?

China

Some years ago, I took 7 businessmen to China. We traveled to more than 5 cities reaching an altitude of 14,000 feet overlooking the Tibetan border. We enjoyed various types of food adventuring into unfamiliar culinary exquisiteness, such as: fried bumble bee, Yak stomach, and to quench our thirst, Yak butter tea. Our journey in China ended in the city of Beijing with 7 hungry men craving American food. Of course, McDonald burgers and Coke satisfied our

appetites {Ask me about this – it's quite the narrative}. We all have cravings what are yours?

What does it Mean?

Righteousness means to be in a right relationship with God: to know Him, love Him and follow His ways. The words “hunger” and “thirst” mean to be famished. It's more than a bite and a sip. To hunger and thirst after righteousness is to crave God first in one's life. Jesus speaks of a spiritual appetite. Jesus is teaching us the secret of a healthy spiritual life, which begins with a hunger and thirst for God.

Years ago, Mick Jagger and the Rolling Stones had a hit song entitled: “I Can't Get No Satisfaction.” The words are simply: “I can't get no satisfaction, I can't get no satisfaction, 'Cause I try and I try and I try and I try.” The words mirror culture today. Satisfaction is elusive for so many. Material possession can't satisfy the soul; confused sexual relations can't satisfy the soul; a tight-fisted hold on unforgiveness can't satisfy the soul. What's missing for you? What are you trying to fill? What will satisfy your stomach?

CS Lewis, Author said:

“We human beings are far too easily pleased. We fool around with so many things that do not satisfy, things that do not, and cannot fill that void and emptiness, all because we are far too easily pleased. We think so often that the things of this world will satisfy, when we always end up falling short of what we desire, and a lot of it is because we are not seeking the right things. The joy that is offered to us, the peace that is offered to us, the satisfaction that is offered to us, is unbelievable if we



John Battaglia, D. Min.
PO Box 891, Jefferson City, MO 65102
573-355-4161//Twitter @johnabattaglia
John.battaglia@capitolcom.org

Is It Lunch Time Yet?

would only grab hold of Jesus and His offer to be our satisfaction.”

Back to the group of followers of Jesus and interested bystanders on the mount. Jesus was correcting a wrong view of righteousness. The religious elites focused on outward piety while inward sin incubated. Self-righteous judgement in tandem with hypocrisy was not Jesus' kind of righteousness. It didn't resemble God and didn't resemble the new community of faith Jesus was establishing. Nor does it now.

Jesus in His radical style in that day, turns religion upside down. He clarifies the intent of God from outward emphasis to a matter of the heart.

“For I say to you that unless your righteousness (uprightness, moral essence) is more than that of the scribes and Pharisees, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven.” (Matt. 5:20 AMP)

He goes on further to unpack the teaching in vv. 21-39 between two antithetical phrases: “You have heard it said to your ancestors...”; “But I say to you ...”

Anger

“You have heard that it was said to those of old, ‘You shall not murder; and whoever murders will be liable to judgment.’ But I say to you that everyone who is angry with his brother will be liable to judgment...vv.21-22.

Lust

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall not commit adultery.’ But I say to you that everyone who looks at a woman with

lustful intent has already committed adultery with her in his heart...vv.23-24.

Love

“You have heard that it was said, ‘You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’ But I say to you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you...vv.43-44.

It's all about the heart. Good deeds cannot gain God's righteousness; it cannot earn God's favor. Walking with Jesus is about relationship with Him, not about external religion.

Thomas a Kempis said:

“Man sees the deed, but God sees the intention”.

Could we agree, we all have feet of clay? We are broken cisterns that cannot hold water? The point is, none of us on our own, can exceed the righteousness of the Pharisees without Jesus.

When we hunger and thirst for righteousness we will be satisfied while on earth and throughout eternity.

How to apply God's righteousness today?

1. Be right with God – begin a personal relationship with Jesus
2. Be obedient to the teachings and ways of Jesus
3. Be steadfast to see right avail