



Sermon Series: Life's Healing Choices


THE SATISFACTION CHOICE

MATTHEW 5:6; VARIOUS

SCRIPTURES



Introduction

- Matthew 5:6 (NIV), *“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.”*
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Intro (cont'd)

- *The Reality Choice*-realize I'm not God, admit I'm powerless to control my tendency to do the wrong thing and my life is unmanageable.
- *The Hope Choice*-earnestly believe that God exists, that I matter to Him, and that He has the power to help me change.

Intro (cont'd)

- *The Commitment Choice*- consciously choose to commit all my life and will to Christ's care and control.
- *The Satisfaction Choice*-to crave the presence and power of God in my life more than anything else.

Intro (cont'd)


- What exactly does Jesus mean when He says, "hunger and thirst?"
- The sentence structure here denotes an abnormal desire for food and drink.
- The words He uses are the strongest that can be employed to describe hunger and thirst.

Intro (cont'd)

- The word for “hunger” means “to famish” and the word “thirst” means “to parch” or “to long for ardently.”
- When we are hungry and thirsty in the way Jesus describes, it changes our perspective.



Intro (cont'd)

- In short, to hunger and thirst means to crave intensely.
 - To make it easy for us to remember, let us look at the acronym C-R-A-V-E.
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C-Commit to living for Him

- In the Greek, there is an article before the word righteousness.
- We are not just to pursue any righteousness, not just the righteousness of men or of the world. We are to crave for “the righteousness” of God.

Commit to living for Him

- The first definition for this word righteousness would mean right living or living rightly.
- 2 Corinthians 5:21 (NIV), "*God made him who had no sin to be sin for us, so that in him we might become the righteousness of God.*"

Commit to living for Him

- In Christ, we were made right with God. Technically, we call it “positional righteousness.”
- The Good News Bible goes like this: “Happy are those whose greatest desire is to do what God requires”.
- Your greatest desire is to follow the Lord. Technically, we call it “practical righteousness.”

Commit to living for Him

- Now, positional righteousness deals with who you are in Christ. Practical righteousness deals with what we do for Him.
- In it's simplest sense, righteousness is absolute obedience. We are to hunger and thirst for our lives to be in line with God's design no matter what.



Commit to living for Him

- The second and I think primary meaning of "righteousness" has to do with more than doing the right thing but rather emphasizes having a right relationship.
- The verb form of the word means "to justify." It means to recognize that God has justified us, or accepted us into a relationship with Him even though we do not deserve such a relationship.

Commit to living for Him

- If a person claims to be a believer and yet he does not even have the desire to live for the Lord, we can actually doubt his claim that he is a believer.
- *1 John 3:6 says, "So everyone who lives in union with Christ does not continue to sin; but whoever continues to sin has never seen him or known him."*[5]
- So the question is, "Are we craving for the right thing? Do we hunger and thirst for righteousness?"

R-Reprioritize your life


- If we really crave for the right thing, we will make it our top priority.
- Matthew 6:31-33 (NIV), *"So do not worry, saying, 'What shall we eat?' or 'What shall we drink?' or 'What shall we wear?' For the pagans run after all these things, and your heavenly Father knows that you need them. But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."*

Reprioritize your life

- Eating and drinking are important for us physically. So also obeying God is important for us spiritually.
- Jesus said in John 4:34 (NIV), "*My food is to do the will of the one who sent me and to complete his work.*"



Reprioritize your life

- Let us ask ourselves, “How should we set our priorities right in order to do what God wants?”
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A-Abide in God's will

- To abide means to remain. When you say something is important, you make time for it.
- The words “hunger and thirst for righteousness” are in the present tense. Literally, it can be translated “hungering and thirsting for righteousness”.

Abide in God's will


- So when we face important decisions, we have to keep on asking, "What does God want?"
- Obeying God entails sacrifice.

V-Void anything that hinders

- Romans 6:12-13 (NIV) commands us, *"Therefore do not let sin reign in your mortal body so that you obey its evil desires. Do not offer the parts of your body to sin, as instruments of wickedness, but rather offer yourselves to God, as those who have been brought from death to life; and offer the parts of your body to him as instruments of righteousness."*



Void anything that hinders

- What is it that is keeping us from obeying God?
 - Are you becoming an instrument for obedience rather than disobedience?
 - Is there anything or anyone that we should give up?
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Void anything that hinders


- Hebrews 12:1 (NIV), *"let us throw off everything that hinders and the sin that so easily entangles, and let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us."*
- Our choice is not just between good and evil but also between good and better and best.

E-Expect God's promises

- The word "satisfied" implies fully and completely satisfied. In a sense, it means filled to the brim.
- Psalm 37:4 (NIV) says, "*Delight yourself in the LORD and he will give you the desires of your heart.*"



Invitation

- (1) Recognize your real need.
 - 2) Stop eating spiritual junk food.
 - (3) Start looking to Christ for your satisfaction.
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