

Matthew 6:1-6, 16-18

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SERMON NOTES

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Kingdom Appetites in a Fallen World

The Sermon on the Mount in chapters 5-6:

- Character (5:1-12)
- Influence (5:13-20)
- Righteousness
 - Moral - horizontal (5:21-48)
 - Religious - vertical (6:1-34)

“Like wax, the heart takes the shape of that which warms it.”

- Dr. Michael Reeves

“There is perhaps no greater secret of progress in Christian living than a healthy, hearty spiritual appetite. Again and again, Scripture addresses its promises to the hungry. God ‘satisfies him who is thirsty, and the hungry He fills with good things.’ If we are conscious of slow growth, is the reason that we have a jaded appetite?”

- John Stott, *The Message of the Sermon on the Mount*

What are we hungry for?

“Most of the trouble in the world is caused by people wanting to be important.”

- T.S. Eliot

“A truly gospel-humble person is not a self-hating person or a self-loving person... The truly gospel-humble person is a self-forgetful person whose ego is just like his or her toes. It just works. It does not draw attention to itself. The toes just work; the ego just works. Neither draws attention to itself.”

- Tim Keller, *The Freedom of Self-Forgetfulness*

“The truth of the matter is, we all come to prayer with a tangled mass of motives — altruistic and selfish, merciful and hateful, loving and bitter. Frankly, this side of eternity we will never unravel the good from the bad, the pure from the impure. But what I have come to see is that God is big enough to receive us with all our mixture... That is what grace means, and not only are we saved by grace, we live by it as well. And we pray by it.”

- Richard Foster, *Prayer*

The Kingdom of Heaven reorients our appetites:

1. Hunger for the self becomes hunger for righteousness.
2. Thirst for earthly acclaim becomes thirst for heavenly reward.
3. Our hearts become fully satisfied in the love of God the Father.

“If you want to judge how well a person understands Christianity, find out how much he makes of the thought of being God’s child, and having God as his Father. If this is not the thought that prompts and controls his worship and prayers and his whole outlook on life, it means that he does not understand Christianity very well at all.”

- J.I. Packer, *Knowing God*