**Spiritual Hunger (Matthew 5:6)**

 As a believer, your thirst for righteousness will be satisfied only in Christ.

 Greetings to you all at this beautiful moment in which we are going to examine the reality of hungering for righteousness (or justice). First and foremost, it is important to understand that the word “righteousness” can have two meanings within this Scriptural context: first, it can mean right behavior according to God’s Law. Second, it can mean just, honest and pure deeds within society. One meaning is spiritual and having to do with the relationship between man and God. The second is a social meaning and is connected to relationships between human beings.

Turning to the Scripture at hand today, Jesus was (indirectly) telling the downtrodden, those who were dealing with the aftermath of injustice in their lives, and those working for justice, “I (myself) will satisfy you.” Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness have already had a taste of unjust judges, thieving tax collectors and violent Roman soldiers, and these were very often the same people who were meek, mourning, or poor in spirit. In one word: Jesus considered it a blessing when a person had a yearning for righteousness. Today we will speak about the meaning of righteousness on that basis, in addition to its fulfillment both within and after this life. Again, I believe the Word of God is saying to us that as a believer, your thirst for righteousness will be satisfied only in Christ. (Therefore, let us speak about this hunger for the next few minutes).

When you approach the injustices in your life through Jesus, then your trust and hope in the Justice that he accomplished will keep you at peace. Jesus said that the righteous ones would be satisfied when God made them so. In those days, there was a class of people in society that had completely usurped the interpretation of what justice was supposed to look like. The poor, the needy, the lower classes had no hope to have a just trial, a just tax, or justice for injustices received from pagan foreigners. Jesus came to say that through him, everything was going to change… But despite saying this, the Lord knew full well that instances of injustice would not be completely wiped off the face of the earth. The Savior was speaking, however, of himself as the embodiment of Justice. In a way, he was saying, “Look, you who are searching for justice will find it in me.” It was both a contemporary encouragement and invitation for his hearers to fix their attention on him, as well as a reference to the Final Judgment, reminding them that they would surely see God’s justice for them then.

The early church Father John Chrysostom, who was a brave preacher in the Byzantine Empire, often pointing out fearlessly the excesses and injustices of the Empress and courtiers of the palace, once said this about justice (or righteousness).

God is just. This ... all acknowledge. But many sinners have had their departure into another world without punishment, while many righteous men have had their departure after suffering ten thousand grievous things. If then God be just, where will He reward their good to the one class, and their punishment to the other, if there be no perdition and no resurrection?

(Of course, Chrysostom gave the answer to his question within the question itself.)

Today as well, God wants to encourage us to look to Christ and to trust Him to satisfy our hunger for righteousness (or justice). No matter how much we work for what is right, there will always be those whom we will not reach in time, whose cases will be resolved at the Final Judgment. No matter how much we speak and try to reconcile families to each other, if those do not get resolved in Christ here, let’s not worry; for God is the one who sees the heart, and will resolve it on the Last Day. When Jesus gave his life on the Cross for us, he accomplished the greatest, most just act in history.

Therefore, take the injustice done against you and give it to Jesus. Forgive your friend; forgive your family member; forgive because Jesus died for them too – for the ones that treated you unjustly; and if you are rightly owed a portion, God will fulfill your need as he has promised in His Word.

Dearly beloved, we the followers of Jesus are already justified through him. Let us hope in him for our case resolutions, our ignored rights. God blesses those who hunger and thirst for righteousness – and he has given us confidence that he will take care of our case – whether here during this life, or the next. Therefore, do not be afraid; God is just and sees every unjust situation. It remains for you and me to trust Jesus for whenever that just resolution will come.

As a believer, your thirst for righteousness will be satisfied only in Christ. God Bless You All – Amen.