

## Day 21

### I can't get no satisfaction!

**Matthew 5:6 (TPT) "How enriched you are when you crave righteousness! For you will be surrounded with fruitfulness.**

Jesus offers us a fully satisfied life! That satisfaction is only found in our pursuit of His righteousness. Simply put; the right kind of craving leads to a place called satisfaction. **The wrong kind of craving leads to a cry of; "I can't get no satisfaction..."** Some of us are allowing things and experiences to suppress a healthy spiritual appetite. These spiritual appetite suppressants cause us to neglect our souls and to feed our flesh. **We crave and desire, we long and we pursue, we eat and we drink, yet we are more miserable and less satisfied than ever before.** We say we want a satisfied soul, yet we pursue the things that only appease our selfish desires. We struggle to learn, because we live in an endless cycle of repeating the same mistakes. Have you realized that life is too short to make all of the mistakes yourself?

Someone said: **"A wise man learns by the experience of others. An ordinary man learns by his own experience. A fool learns by nobody's experience."** In the words of that great and wise man, Mr. T: "I pity the fool!" The wise gain wisdom and understanding, not for the sake of gathering information, but for the necessary course adjustments that we all need in life. **If what you have been doing as a Christ follower has led you to a superficial experience, then something is amiss.** Jesus clearly told us in the beatitudes that the right appetite leads to a fulfilled life. Doing it Jesus' way brings complete satisfaction. Who else can make that promise or guarantee? We have products that are being sold on a daily basis with this promise: "If you are not completely satisfied, return it, no questions asked."

So, how many people are not satisfied? Each year in the U.S. alone, customers return approximately 3.5 billion products, of which only 20% are actually defective. About five to ten percent of in-store purchases are returned, and the number increases to 15 to 40 percent for online purchases. If you think that much of what is being returned is being re-sold, then you are wrong. Most companies lack the infrastructure to deal with it, so many of the products end up in the trash. Tobin Moore, the CEO of Optoro said, in the next several years, as e-commerce grows globally, *"the amount of returns is going to be over a trillion dollars a year."* A whole lot of dissatisfaction going on...

**Human beings struggle with satisfaction! We want, we get, we regret, and we return. This dissatisfaction is not simply a purchasing problem, it is a hunger and thirst problem; that's according to Jesus.**

We simply cannot find satisfaction! **This dissatisfaction is reflected in every part of our lives.** We see it in our divorce rates. We see it in our broken relationships. We see it in our debt load and in our desire to acquire. The saddest part of all of this, we see it in our churches. **We embrace a gospel that has very little of Jesus and a whole lot of us. A gospel that is all about making me happy, instead of me becoming holy. A gospel of self-fulfillment, instead of self-sacrifice. A gospel of finding myself, instead of dying to self. We see it in how we shop for churches like they are retail stores. "If you don't have what I need or preach what I want to hear, I'm outta here." "You must cater to my needs," instead of being willing to serve the needs of others.**

**Our intolerance for the Truth, has led us down a slippery slope of "everything goes."** No wonder we hunger and thirst, yet we are never filled. Jesus promises not just a brief satisfaction for a moment. He promises, when you are hungry and thirsty for His righteousness, you will be so full you won't need

anything else. **Are you full yet?** The word “satisfied” was originally used to describe the feeding of animals until they were so full they could eat no more; meaning, completely satisfied. Listen to what the Psalmist wrote: ***“For he satisfies the thirsty and fills the hungry with good things.” (Psalm 107:9 NLT)***

We must genuinely hunger and thirst for His righteousness. Like a man starving to death and literally dying of thirst, desperate for Jesus, then He will fill us to capacity with His presence, power, and purpose. **We must develop a Hunger for hearing the Truth.** The problem with our society today is that we no longer believe in truth as an absolute. We say that truth is relative. That means, whatever I feel like believing that is “truth” to me. In God’s Word, Jesus over and over said: “I tell you the truth!” No matter what the world says, truth is a Person; Jesus is the truth. We have to develop a hunger for Truth; a hunger for Him. Truth will always first appear negative because truth is confrontational. That is why we don’t always want to hear it! But when we allow the truth to change us, we will find our desires will change as well. Paul writes and says to the Colossians; ***“From the very first day you heard and recognized the truth of what God is doing, you’ve been hungry for more.” Colossians 1:6(Message)***

**We have a choice, live life looking for satisfaction in places, people and pursuits that will only leave us empty, or hunger and thirst after God’s righteousness and live completely satisfied!** The satisfaction He offers is beyond this life. No one else can make you that offer. We have the light. We don’t have to fumble and stumble in the darkness hoping to find true life and satisfaction. ***“For you were once darkness, but now you are light in the Lord. Live as children of light 9 (for the fruit of the light consists in all goodness, righteousness and truth) 10 and find out what pleases the Lord.” (Ephesians 5:8-10 NIV)***

A fully satisfied life in Jesus means you walk in His light and goodness. Righteousness and truth is the fruit that you produce. That person pleases the Lord for they find their complete satisfaction in Him. Are you satisfied yet?

#### **Reflection and Prayer:**

- Solid food is for those who are mature; milk is for infants. How do you know you can handle solid spiritual food? When you know how to do what is right. Pray and ask the Holy Spirit to sharpen your spiritual senses. ***“There is much more we would like to say about this, but it is difficult to explain, especially since you are spiritually dull and don’t seem to listen. 12 You have been believers so long now that you ought to be teaching others. Instead, you need someone to teach you again the basic things about God’s word. You are like babies who need milk and cannot eat solid food. 13 For someone who lives on milk is still an infant and doesn’t know how to do what is right.” (Hebrews 5:11-13 NLT)***
- Pray for a hunger and thirst to understand the Truth - ***“Lead me by your truth and teach me, for you are the God who saves me. All day long I put my hope in you.” (Psalm 25:5 NLT)***
- Pray for an appetite to apply the Truth - ***“For I am always aware of your unfailing love, and I have lived according to your truth.” (Psalm 26:3 NLT)***  
***“But everyone who lives by the truth will come to the light, because they want others to know that God is really the one doing what they do.” (John 3:21 CEV)***
- Pray for a craving for God’s ultimate Truth to prevail in the earth.  
***“In your majesty ride forth victoriously in behalf of truth, humility and righteousness; let your right hand display awesome deeds.” (Psalm 45:4 NIV)***

***“The LORD works righteousness and justice for all the oppressed. (Psalm 103:6 NIV)***