



**SERIES: A SEASON OF HOPE**

**SPEAKER: NAT CRAWFORD**

**Tuesday, 12/01/20**

**Scripture: Matthew 5:6**

**TITLE: Don't Settle!**

Do you remember the Pepsi commercials from the late 80s, maybe early 90s, with Ray Charles? He'd be playing the piano, he would take a drink from his Pepsi can, and then he'd have that refreshing sip, and then he's saying, "You got the right one, Baby. Uh-huh." That's one of those commercials I just will never forget: The look of that ice-cold Pepsi combined with that refreshing reaction, and then the confirmation that he had chosen the right source, moved a lot of people to want to buy Pepsi.

The problem with Pepsi is, it never truly satisfies. Not only that, but it never truly satisfies. What does truly satisfy? Listen to how Jesus answers this question:

["Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied."](#) Matthew 5:6 (ESV)

Jesus says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness". First thing I wonder is, what does it actually mean to be "the blessed people"? Because we will say, "Bless you", when people sneeze. When someone is going through a hard time, my mother will say, "You know, God bless them." But what does it mean to be blessed? The word means: to be rich with happiness and joy. The word means to be viewed upon favorably by God. Now, some would say, that there is a physical element to this - a physical reward - and I think that there is, but it's not necessarily a causal relationship.

Simply put, to be blessed means that when God sees you, He smiles. And because of that, no matter what's going on around you, you have that supernatural joy, and peace, and happiness, because you know you're obeying God.

But then, He says, the ones who are blessed are the ones "who hunger and thirst for righteousness".

I think a lot of us today are unsatisfied, spiritually speaking, because we've settled, or we've stopped. We've become spiritually stuck in our walk with God. Why would this happen? Why would our hunger or thirst for righteousness end? Well as I said, I think some of us just settled.

I'm a foodie, so when I travel, I will spend hours researching restaurants, so I know exactly where I want to go, and what I hope to eat. I'm very intentional about this. And when I travel with my family, I sometimes have to remind them, "No, no, we're not going to eat McDonald's, because it's less than an hour away. We're actually going to eat at this particular restaurant, and

trust me it'll be worth it.” But if we're not careful, we could settle for the McDonald's, when we've got Cheesecake Factory just down the way.

And you see, we do this spiritually. We become saved. We begin following Jesus, and then we get distracted by sports, or family activities, or work, or Netflix, or YouTube, or you-name-the-thing. And because we feel like the mission has been accomplished – being saved – we can kind of start to coast, and settle along the way. The problem is, we become satisfied with a nominal Christianity, when we have a spiritual and exhilarating walk to experience.

Christ says, “Do not settle. Don't remain spiritually idle or stuck. Your hunger and your thirst can only be satisfied when you keep walking with me”; when you are hungry for pursuing a life built on righteousness; on following the road map that the Bible prescribes.

Today, if you feel stuck, if you feel unsatisfied, chances are you've settled, and it's time to get moving again.

Today, my challenge for you is to commit to God you will not settle. You want to be satisfied by following Him. Today, get back to the Bible, and allow God to get you moving again.