

I Want MORE

Sunday, March 5, 2023
10:30 AM

Matthew 5:6

6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

In The Sermon on the Mount, Jesus declares this powerful truth... A promise that He will fill completely those who are hungry and thirsty for him.

David said it this way...

Psalm 63:1

1 You, God, are my God, earnestly I seek you; I thirst for you, my whole being longs for you, in a dry and parched land where there is no water.

In Psalm 42 The sons of Korah echo David's longing

Psalm 42:1-2

1 As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. 2 My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God?

And yet in these days in which we live it seems that this type of desire for more of God is becoming more and more rare

Jesus said that in the last days...

Matthew 24:12

12 Because of the increase of wickedness, the love of most will grow cold,

That includes a love for God.

Paul further defined these people with these words...

2 Timothy 3:2-5

2 People will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money... 3 ...not lovers of the good, 4 ...lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God— 5 having a form of godliness but denying its power.

Late last fall, God dropped a phrase into my heart "I Want More" or maybe it was meant to be more of a question, "Do you want more?" Either way it has been

ruminating in my spirit and I would like to use this series for us to consider together the thought of WANTING MORE.

Everyone wants MORE of something...

- More time to do what they like
- More money
- More health
- More wisdom and understanding
- More years to live
- More possessions
- More provision
- More recognition
- More fame
- More, more, more

Perhaps that phrase reminds you of Charles Dickens line in Oliver Twist when the young orphan begs...

"Please sir I want more.."

Or maybe you are from the era that remembers Captain James T. Kirk and his calls for Scotty to give him more power... And Scotty replies

"I'm givin' her all she's got captain."

Then there's the story of King Midas from Greek Mythology who wanted more and when offered a reward from Dionysus was granted his ill-fated desire that whatever he touched would turn to gold. At first he rejoiced in his power and began turning everything to gold. But when he wanted to eat and drink and found that even that turned to Gold; and when he reached out to comfort his daughter and she too turned to gold; he hated his gift and asked for it to be removed.

When I say, "I Want more" I am not talking about the MORE that the World wants, nor am I speaking about a greed within myself that needs more to consume. Rather I am speaking about a hunger and thirst for the things of God. A desire for all that God has promised. A longing to experience a sovereign move of God. A passion for the fulness of The Holy Spirit, His anointing and moving in our midst.

So as we begin this journey, I want to lay the foundation with 4 important questions pertaining to MORE

1. Do I BELIEVE MORE is AVAILABLE?

If we do not believe that more is available, we will never seek to have it

It's time for us to remember what he have seen, heard and experienced

It's time for us to get back into the Word and see what He has promised to those who are hungry and thirsty. He said we will be filled!

It's time for us to have new Holy Ghost encounters that will stir in us a desire to have even more.

It's time for us to do what Jeremiah 29:13 tells us

Jeremiah 29:13

13 You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart.

The answer is YES... There is more available!!

More than we could ever think, or ask or imagine

Ephesians 3:20

20 Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than all we ask or imagine, according to his power that is at work within us,

Jesus is always willing to give us more

I love that story in Mark Chapter 1 and Luke Chapter 5 that tells of a man who had leprosy who falls to the ground and says; "Lord, if you are willing you can make me clean. Jesus reaches out and touches the man (something that was unheard of) and says, "I AM WILLING"

How much more will He give us what we ask Him, especially when we know that it is in line with His desires for us?

John 16:24

24 Until now you have not asked for anything in my name. Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.

Luke 6:38

38 ..it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you.”

Matthew 7:9-11

9 “Which of you, if your son asks for bread, will give him a stone? 10 Or if he asks for a fish, will give him a snake? 11 If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!

2. Do I DESIRE MORE in MY LIFE?

More must be desired

James says *"You do not have because you do not ask God."* (James 4:2)

Not everyone wants more...

- The people with the pigs didn't want Jesus to stay (Mark 5)
- The people at the mountain didn't want more (Exodus 20)
- The people who turned away from Jesus didn't want more (John 6)
 - *Jesus Feeds the Five Thousand*
 - *Jesus Walks on the Water*
 - *Jesus the Bread of Life*
 - *Many Disciples Desert Jesus*
- The people who made excuses - the parable of the great banquet - didn't want more (Luke 14)

Moses wanted more and got to see the glory of God

David wanted more because he brought the Ark back to Jerusalem because he saw how the house of Obed-Edom had been blessed

3. Am I WILLING to MAKE ROOM for MORE?

One of the things that keeps us from having more is the simple fact that we have no room for more. We are finite beings and have limited time, capacity and energy. Our lives are so filled with other things that we don't have room for the more of God.

More has a cost

Matthew 13:44-46

44 "The kingdom of heaven is like treasure hidden in a field. When a man found it, he hid it again, and then in his joy went and sold all he had and bought that field.

45 "Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. 46 When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it.

4. WHAT will I ASK God for MORE OF?

More what???

Jesus was always asking people what they wanted

Let's take time during this series to truly consider what we want more of; to search the scriptures and be encouraged by what they promise is available to us; to make room in our lives so that God can pour out what we ask of Him; to count the cost and be willing to pay the price; to petition God - asking, seeking and knocking - until we cultivate a hunger, thirst and desire that can only be filled by God.