



The **HOLY FROG** Blog

Honour Others Lower Yourself and Fully Rely On God

How HUNGRY and THIRSTY are You?!

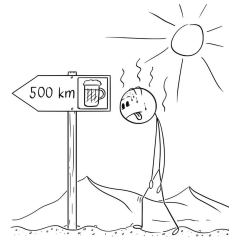
I have to confess that I often use the words "I am hungry" or "I am thirsty" without really thinking about what it **really** feels like. Although there was a moment in Tenerife airport I was stranded without anything to drink and no means to pay



for one either. With 15 minutes until boarding, I decided to spend my last few Euros on a book, thinking I would soon be able to get a drink on the plane journey home using an english £10 note. Just minutes after buying the book however, my flight was delayed - for four hours- and my troubles began! It was a hot day. I tried not to think about it but after an hour, my mouth was so dry I considered drinking the tap water in the toilets but knew it wasn't safe to drink. Instead, I tried to distract myself by walking around the departure lounge but everyone was DRINKING and no one offered



me a drink. After an hour, I thought about from the cups left in the restaurant. Two hours wondered about asking a few people for any three half hours, I was so desperate for that when I came across a fountain in the airport to make - drink the water or take the coins How desperate was I? All I could focus on was some refreshment was my only purpose! on the plane, I bought as much water as I could with my £10 and my thirst was finally satisfied!



slurping the dregs in, feeling faint, I loose change. After something to drink I had a tough choice people had thrown in! my thirst. Getting Thankfully, once I was

Continuing our look at The Beatitudes that Jesus taught his disciples and followers in the Sermon on the Mount, we read the fourth one: *Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be satisfied. (Matt 5:6)*

YET AGAIN - we might rightly ask '**What are you saying Jesus?** How can anyone possibly be blessed, happy or feeling good when they are hungry or thirsty?' " Remember - Jesus is telling us about **living life differently, focusing on the SPIRITUAL not the PHYSICAL.** His listeners would have certainly known times when they were so hungry and thirsty that nothing else would matter.

In the same way, Jesus says that it is those people who deliberately commit to living God's way by focusing on doing right, standing up for justice, defending the weak and serving others with unconditional love (agape) who will be satisfied. This is not just a one time action however. It is not enough to do your 'good deed for the day' and then imagine you have been 'righteous' enough. This is a lifetime commitment Jesus is talking about. After all, we don't just eat once and that's it for the next few days, weeks or months do we? Eating and drinking regularly is not only good for the body, it is necessary for it to function at its best. ***Being 'hungry' to live the right way, under God's kingdom rule, is not only good for our soul, but vital for us to function in our God given potential.***



There are so many issues and events happening around us that need us to do more than feel sad about the situation or simply demonstrate a concern. We need to be motivated, keen and willing to step in, act justly and be courageous. To 'hunger and thirst' after living right. Yet it isn't always easy. Consider Jesus' example. He didn't always follow the crowd, go along with the majority or jump on the latest bandwagon. He wasn't concerned about being popular or well liked. He was someone who was 'hungry' and 'thirsty', so desperate, intent and single minded in wanting to show us how we might live a righteous life that nothing else mattered. He did this by fully relying on God - even in the tough times. He is our example. Living this way, you will be blessed and satisfied in life.



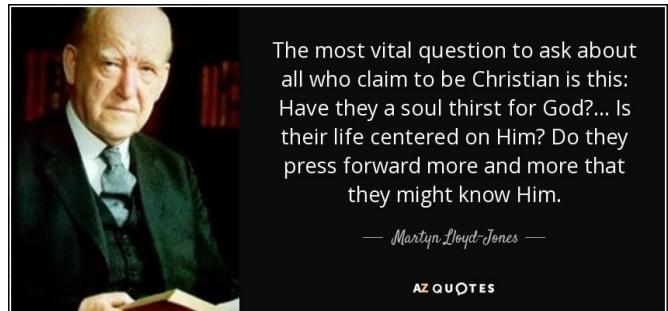
What does that mean for us this week?

Have you ever been so focused on something that nothing else matters? I don't mean when you are on your phone and you miss someone talking to you. Perhaps you desperately want to win a competition, achieve something or improve your personal skills (check out the Enrichment Programme for that!) This hunger to do something drives your goals. You wake up and want to do that thing more than anything else! You long for the day you will be able to say 'It's done!' I am satisfied. Well that's good motivation for life. This week, apply some of that drive, enthusiasm and desire to unlocking your spiritual side. What would your life be like with a hunger and thirst to know more about God? Ask some questions of people you know who are Christians.

Come and join us at the Christian Union 'BIG FROG GATHERING' (BFG) on Thursdays 3-4pm in the theatre and explore what it means to Fully Rely On God in life.

Feed the hunger! Quench the thirst! It feels good to be full. Ask God to help you to GO PRACTICE DOING RIGHT with the same passion and desire that you would do if you were hungry and thirsty

What's Your attitude to this beatitude?



CHAPLAIN'S CHALLENGE:

1. Imagine you haven't eaten for 24 hours. What's the FIRST thing you want to eat ?
2. Describe a time when you were so hungry/thirsty nothing else mattered.
3. What goals are you hungry for at home; in school; in life; with God?
4. In groups, discuss some of the issues/events that need YOU to act in a right way.
5. Find time to read Matthew's Gospel and talk to others about living it out.
6. What is your life centred on? Would you agree/disagree with Dr Lloyd Jones?

Read and Reflect: Oh God, you are my God: I earnestly search for you. My soul thirsts for you; my body longs for you in this parched and weary land where there is no water. Psalm 63:1-2



PRAYER:

Lord God we thank you that you have shown us, through Jesus, that there is a different way to live in this world. May we hunger and thirst to know more about how that happens and be courageous in seeking you. Amen.

Happy to chat about the blog, Christian faith, prayer requests and everything else (I am in Tue,Wed,Thu) May we know real life lived out in faith, as individuals and as a community. Joe the Chaplain - jmaggs@speters.org.uk