

## Beatitude 4 – Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness

Freddy the Frog used to be very proud. Remember he thought he was king of his own world? Freddy is not like that now. Let me tell you the story of the day when Freddy began to change. One warm summer day Freddy had wandered into a very remote part of the pond. He was jumping from lily pad to lily pad and wasn't paying much attention to where he was jumping. He knew those lily pads well and thought it might be a challenge to jump with his eyes closed. What Freddy didn't realize is that the wind had blown down some vines from one of the trees next to the pond. Freddy leaped but didn't land. His hind foot was stuck in the vine! Freddy got angry and struggled to free his foot but in the process got his front leg caught as well. He was dangling in mid-air!!! Now Freddy couldn't control his anger. He shifted and squirmed, he wiggled and spun. He did flips and turns screaming the whole time. As you might guess, this only made Freddy even more tangled in the vine. Well, this went on for some time but Freddy just wasn't going to get loose.

Now about lunchtime Freddy's family began to wonder where he was. And when it got to be later in the day, and Freddy was nowhere to be found, everyone began to worry. At first they went out as a family looking for him, but when it got to be dinnertime and no one could find him all the otters and frogs of the pond joined in the search.

Freddy was getting hungry and thirsty. He had been stuck in the tree all day with nothing to eat or drink, and he was mad. He was mad at himself and embarrassed to have gotten himself into this situation. He was so mad and embarrassed that when he heard people calling his name and even when he saw Oslo swimming by he remained silent. He didn't want anyone to find him stuck in a tree.

They searched for Freddy late into the night and couldn't find him. Early the next morning the crown fell off Freddy's head and sunk into the mud at the bottom of the pond. He had been stuck for a whole day and had been too proud to call out for help! But now he was so hungry and so thirsty that things began to change. He realized there was no way he was ever going to get free by himself. Freddy cried out to God and said, "Lord! Help me!" Not too long after that Oslo, who had begun to search for Freddy early that morning, heard his cries too. Oslo found Freddy tangled, bruised, and stuck in a tree that he knew he had passed more than once the day before. Oslo quickly ran up the tree and chewed through the vines and set Freddy free. He put Freddy on his back and swam him home as fast as he could.

Everyone was happy to see that Freddy was home and safe. And when Freddy's parents asked him to explain what had happened Freddy did something that he almost never did. He told them the truth. He was so ashamed that he had been too proud to call out for help at first and that he had made his parents worry. Freddy lost his crown that day and began to realize that he was NOT the king of his own world.

Yeshua taught, "*Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.*" Are you hungry? Are you thirsty? Just about everyone knows how to solve that condition – eat and drink something. But what about being hungry and thirsty for righteousness? In a simple sense righteousness is doing what is right and being right in God's eyes. Now, I've been to a lot of different stores and restaurants and never found anything that was going to satisfy my hunger and thirst for God's righteousness. Maybe our King wants us to remember that almost every day we are going to be hungry and thirsty, and just as this is a strong desire, so too we should have a strong desire for doing what is right in His eyes. We are to seek Him, His Kingdom, and His righteousness daily. I know I hunger and thirst every day – and this can help me to remember that the King of the Universe wants me to hunger and thirst for those things which are right. He can satisfy that hunger and thirst.

Parents, would you consider something this week? Do you hunger and thirst for righteousness? Is it possible that God's righteousness is lacking in your life and the lives of your families because you have satisfied your "hunger and thirst" with things that are not righteous? Think about the verses below and help your children to remember the message of this beatitude.

For Further Study: together as families read and consider these topics for discussion:

- 1) Gen 18:16-33 God judged Sodom and spoke with Abraham – consider his position in his family – Abraham was to command his family and house -- to do righteousness
- 2) Psa 32 Begins with a blessing for those who are forgiven and ends with the righteous shouting for joy. Is your household characterized this way?