

**Paradox**  
**Week 5-Hunger and Thirst for Righteousness**

**Matthew 5:6 (NIV)** – Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

*The only sin Jesus ever had was ours, and the only righteousness we can ever have is His.*  
-A.W. Tozer

**Psalm 63:1 (NLT)**

Life has a way of emptying us, but God wants to fill us. All throughout the Bible we see God filling empty vessels:

- He filled an empty Earth in **Genesis 1**
- He filled an empty ark in **Genesis 7**
- He filled the widow's empty jars with oil in **2 Kings 4**
- He filled the stomachs of hungry people in **Matthew 14**
- He filled the empty life of the woman at the well in **John 4**

God will fill what's empty. He can't fill what is already full, so the question becomes...

**Do you live a full life or a filled life?**

**Busy, busy, busy...**

So many people are so busy today. In fact, busyness is worn as a badge of honor as if it is more meaningful to be busy. In June of 2012 the New York Times ran an article titled "The Busy Trap" in the article it made the point that the default answer to the question "How are you doing?" is "Busy" "So busy" or "Crazy busy"

The article goes on to say...

*Busyness serves as a kind of hedge against emptiness; obviously your life cannot possibly be silly or trivial or meaningless if you are busy, completely booked, in demand every hour of the day...We're busy because of our own ambition or drive or anxiety, because we're addicted to busyness and dread what we might have to face in its absence.*

We are accustomed to live busy lives...to live full lives...But is this the kind of life that God is wanting you to live? **Do you live a full life or a filled life?**

**Luke 14**

<sup>18</sup> "But they all alike began to make excuses. The first said, 'I have just bought a field, and I must go and see it. Please excuse me.'

**Guest #1** was too busy with his stuff. He had a possession that God had blessed him with that began to take priority over God Himself...

<sup>19</sup> “Another said, ‘I have just bought five yoke of oxen, and I’m on my way to try them out. Please excuse me.’

**Guest #2** was too busy with work. Making money and growing his business was more important to him than God was.

<sup>20</sup> “Still another said, ‘I just got married, so I can’t come.’

**Guest #3** was too busy with “family time” than he was leading his family to a deeper and more intimate relationship with God.

<sup>21</sup> “The servant came back and reported this to his master. Then the owner of the house became angry and ordered his servant, ‘Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.’

<sup>22</sup> “‘Sir,’ the servant said, ‘what you ordered has been done, but there is still room.’

<sup>23</sup> “Then the master told his servant, ‘Go out to the roads and country lanes and compel them to come in, so that my house will be full. <sup>24</sup> I tell you, not one of those who were invited will get a taste of my banquet.’”

**Ephesians 5:15-18 (NLT)**— <sup>15</sup> So be careful how you live. Don’t live like fools, but like those who are wise. <sup>16</sup> Make the most of every opportunity in these evil days. <sup>17</sup> Don’t act thoughtlessly, but understand what the Lord wants you to do. <sup>18</sup> Don’t be drunk with wine, because that will ruin your life. Instead, be filled with the Holy Spirit,

### **Let’s get really practical...**

D.L. Moody says this

*I firmly believe that the moment our hearts are emptied of selfishness and ambition and self-seeking and everything that is contrary to God's law, the Holy Spirit will come and fill every corner of our hearts; but if we are full of pride and conceit, ambition and self-seeking, pleasure and the world, there is no room for the Spirit of God. I also believe that many a man is praying to God to fill him, when he is full already with something else. Before we pray that God would fill us, I believe we ought to pray that He would empty us. There must be a n emptying before there can be a filling; and when the heart is turned upside down, and everything that is contrary to God is turned out, then the Spirit will come...God sends no one away empty except those that are full of themselves.*



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