

CONSECRATED IN THE CHAOS

Chapter 4: Craving Righteousness

*“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness,
for they will be filled.” Matthew 5:6*

PROSPECTING FOR GOLD

The Main Idea – The Big Questions

1. Physically speaking, think of a time you’ve been really hungry (maybe you’ve missed a meal or two). What was the experience like?
2. What do you think hunger and thirst are like for the poverty-stricken people throughout the world who struggle to find any kind of food or clean water at all?
3. How often do you take time to ponder the cost of such a priceless gift as hungering and thirsting for God?

MINING FOR GOLD

Making it personal – real life challenges – what do we learn?

4. What are some of the things the world hungers for?
5. What kind of life hungers have you experienced?
6. To whom or what do you turn to feed your hunger? Others? Or maybe you depend on yourself? How successful are you at finding relief?

When you pray, what do you ask of God?

7. How do you differentiate between what is truly an *important need* and what is more of a *comfort want*? *How long do the comfort wants keep you satisfied?*
8. When someone asks you how you’re doing, have you ever casually answered, “*I’m blessed*”? What do you mean by that?
9. Do we sometimes fall into the trap of believing our comfort is a sign of God’s blessing?

“Men, women, teens, children are literally ‘marketing objects’ that fuel a secret society of the wealthy and the demonic. They are playing on every temptation of ‘the flesh’ and marketing directly to every area of weakness in man’s heart.” Cassidy goes on to warn about the “unspeakable and unthinkable sin” on the Internet.

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 56

“The problem that we face in a Western Culture like ours stems from a high vision for comfort and self-sufficiency. Many of the things we consider necessities are items that the rest of the world population lives without. We have placed comfort as an idol that is expected like a rite of passage simply because we live in America. Yet this is so far from what the Bible portrays as a life surrendered to God. As a result of this ideology, we so fear the loss of our comfort. We rely on our self-sufficiency at all costs to acquire many of these comforts.”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 54

“A flood of God’s purifying fire is coming that will cleanse, purify, and remove everything that hinders Love (Jesus) from ruling and reigning here on the earth as in Heaven. God is serious about our sin! (Our) own sin and lack of hunger in perpetuating sin in (our) city. Judgment starts in the house of God.”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 57

10. Have Americans, in general, made comfort an idol? Do some Christians do the same thing?
11. What is self-sufficiency?
12. How important is it for us to teach the things we’re discussing to our children and grandchildren? Explain.
13. When we pray, do we sometimes give God a list of the things we want? – “Lord, please provide this particular job, house, opportunity . . . (fill in the blank).” And then are we hypocritical when we go to church and pray “Your kingdom come, Your will be done, here on earth as it is in heaven”? Do we see this as an assault on the Kingdom of Heaven?

Oh how we must hunger and thirst for righteousness!



This is important! Take time to pray for participants in the group and the entire church: Confession, repentance, and an urgent appeal to ask the Lord for His help.

14. What does Jesus tell us about how we are to pray when we want or need something?

EXTRACTING THE GOLD

Discovering the True & Pure Meaning of Jesus' Words

15. How does the priority of comfort compare with what the Bible portrays as a life surrendered to God?

What is Jesus' example of a life surrendered to His Father?

“Our comfort is not a sign of God's blessing, nor is the lack of it a sign of His displeasure. We have to be awake and not allow fear to distort our heart's view and understanding of our Heavenly Father. We cannot fear pain, suffering, nor even find it strange that it is happening.”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, pages 54-55

What was Paul's example of a life surrendered to Jesus?

16. What does Scripture say about self-sufficiency?

BIBLE EXPLORATION

Drawing from other examples in Scripture – what do we learn?

Read the following Scripture passages and then answer the questions that follow.

Testing & Hardships – James 1:2-4 NIV

“Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance. Let perseverance finish its work so that you may be mature and complete, not lacking anything.”

The Voice Translation: *“Don’t run from tests and hardships, brothers and sisters. As difficult as they are, you will ultimately find joy in them; if you embrace them, your faith will blossom under pressure and teach you true patience as you endure. And true patience brought on by endurance will equip you to complete the long journey and cross the finish line—mature, complete, and wanting nothing.”*

- ❖ What challenges, trials, and hardships did the brother of Jesus face?
- ❖ Was James saying we are to be joyful while going through hardships and trials? If not, what was he saying?
- ❖ What are the results of taking James’ advice to face and work through trials and hardships?
- ❖ What’s the best benefit of all?

Standing Strong – 1 Peter 5:9-11 NIV

“Stand against him and be strong in your faith. Remember, other Christians over all the world are suffering the same as you are. After you have suffered for a while, God Himself will make you perfect. He will keep you in the right way. He will give you strength. He is the God of all loving-favor and has called you through Christ Jesus to share His shining-greatness forever. God has power over all things forever. Let it be so.”

- ❖ Who are we really standing against during challenging times?
- ❖ What does it mean to you that God called you to share Christ’s never-ending glory?

How does that along with the knowledge that other Christians suffer the same (or worse) as you affect you as you respond to God’s call?

God’s Intent for the Church - Ephesians 3:10-11 NIV

“His intent was that now, through the church, the manifold wisdom of God should be made known to the rulers and authorities in the heavenly realms, according to His eternal purpose that He accomplished in Christ Jesus our Lord.”

- ❖ What kind of devotion will it take for we the church to be successful in doing that?
- ❖ What does that look like? How will our eyes be opened? *Read and discuss the continuation of the quote above in **Consecrated in the Chaos** (page 58), shown below.*

“(God) is in control, and He has a plan. We, the church, His Bride, are a part of that answer. This is the day we must keep our hearts burning before our King. He is coming back soon. Now is the time to rise and take our place at the governmental seat that is seated in the heavens with Jesus. We have to follow His leadership as a priest ministering to the Father, interceding for the collision of heaven and earth. We must keep our eyes locked on Jesus in humility so that we can be free of the world’s desires. We cannot be so dependent on all the things the world tells us we need that we become enslaved. . . .”

... “Our eyes will be opened through humility, foolishness, fasting, meditation, contemplation, and a life of hiddenness in the Lord. With our eyes gazing and learning how Jesus rules and reigns, we can see the vast difference in the rule of Christ and the systems of our world. This requires intentional planning, long hours of loving conversations with our Heavenly Father, and a holy resolve to follow Jesus at all costs.” . . .

Why is this important?

“ . . . “The God Eternal has an eternal purpose, and it is the church! The church IS God’s answer to the powers that try to deceive humanity into submission to its already defeated systems. It is vital for the church to operate by the wisdom, power, and leadership of the Holy Spirit.”

Thirsting for Living Water – John 4:5-26 NIV

“He came to a town in Samaria called Sychar, near the plot of ground Jacob had given to his son Joseph. Jacob’s well was there, and Jesus, tired as he was from the journey, sat down by the well. It was about noon. When a Samaritan woman came to draw water, Jesus said to her, ‘Will you give me a drink?’ (His disciples had gone into the town to buy food.) The Samaritan woman said to him, ‘You are a Jew and I am a Samaritan woman. How can you ask me for a drink? (For Jews do not associate with Samaritans.)’ Jesus answered her, ‘If you knew the gift of God and who it is that asks you for a drink, you would have asked him and he would have given you living water.’ ‘Sir,’ the woman said, you have nothing to draw with and the well is deep. Where can you get this living water? Are you greater than our father Jacob, who gave us the well and drank from it himself, as did also his sons and his livestock?’ Jesus answered, ‘Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give them will never thirst. Indeed, the water I give them will become in them a spring of water welling up to eternal life.’ The woman said to him, ‘Sir, give me this water so that I won’t get thirsty and have to keep coming here to draw water.’ He told her, ‘Go, call your husband and come back.’ ‘I have no husband,’ she replied. Jesus said to her, ‘You are right when you say you have no husband. The fact is, you have had five husbands, and the man you now have is not your husband. What you have just said is quite true.’ ‘Sir,’ the woman said, ‘I can see that you are a prophet.²⁰ Our ancestors worshiped on this mountain, but you Jews claim that the place where we must worship is in Jerusalem.’ ‘Woman,’ Jesus replied, ‘believe me, a time is coming when you will worship the Father neither on this mountain nor in Jerusalem. You Samaritans worship what you do not know; we worship what we do know, for salvation is from the Jews. Yet a time is coming and has now come when the true worshipers will worship the Father in the Spirit and in truth, for they are the kind of worshipers the Father seeks. God is spirit, and his worshipers must worship in the Spirit and in truth.’ The woman said, ‘I know that Messiah (called Christ) is coming. When he comes, he will explain everything to us.’ Then Jesus declared, ‘I, the one speaking to you—I am He.’”

❖ When was the last time you knew the living waters were flowing within you?

REFINING THE GOLD

Personal Journey – the Challenges and the Connection to God

17. Describe what genuine worship within the church looks like to you.

18. What does worship look like beyond our churches, when we go out into the world?

“God is seeking the earth, roaming, hovering, searching for worshipers who will genuinely worship Him with no other motive other than love, and they will worship not just in song but with their lives. God is calling you and I, today, to drink from the living waters He offers to us. He is daring us to choose life, to choose Him. The greater the hunger, the greater the longing for God. It is the evidence of God’s work in us. The hunger is the gift! It is the difference between a complacent heart and a heart awakened to the Lord. Oh let us not take for granted this filling, flowing, and fascination deep within. It is not our doing but rather the gift from our Father. Thank Him for your hunger and ask Him for more!”

Cassidy Campbell, *Consecrated in the Chaos*, page 63

This Week: Seek to spend time just being with God, worshipping Him and seeking to know Him better as the Father who loves you beyond anything you could possibly imagine. Rather than asking God what His will is in any given situation, simply ask Him what His will is (period). Then, as you lay your concerns before His feet, craft your petitions in accordance with that.

Consider a fast this week, as you ask Jesus to create a hunger and thirst in you to know Him better and for righteousness. Ask Him to give that same hunger and thirst to the entire church!

Hide yourself in Jesus by meditating on Scripture and feel the infinite rivers of living water pouring over you.

