

## A GOD-SHAPED HOLE

TEXT: (Psalm 42:1-6, NIV)

<sup>1</sup> As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, my God. <sup>2</sup> My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. When can I go and meet with God? <sup>3</sup> My tears have been my food day and night, while people say to me all day long, "Where is your God?" <sup>4</sup> These things I remember as I pour out my soul: how I used to go to the house of God under the protection of the Mighty One with shouts of joy and praise among the festive throng.

### INTRODUCTION:

1. "The LORD God formed the man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life, and the man became a living being" (Genesis 2:7, NIV).
2. "Fools detest turning from evil" (Proverbs 13:19, NIV).

### I. What Does It Mean to Long to Be Fulfilled?

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

#### A. A Christian Must Remain Continually Hungry.

1. "Then Moses said, 'Now show me your glory'" (Exodus 33:18, NIV).
2. "O God, you are my God, earnestly I seek you; my soul thirsts for you, my body longs for you, in a dry and weary land where there is no water. I have seen you in the sanctuary and beheld your power and your glory" (Psalm 63:1-2, NIV).
3. "I want to know Christ and the power of his resurrection and the fellowship of sharing in his sufferings, becoming like him in his death, and so, somehow, to attain to the resurrection from the dead" (Philippians 3:10-11, NIV).

#### B. Seek the Kingdom First

1. "But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well" (Matthew 6:33, NIV).
2. "Make every effort to enter through the narrow door, because many, I tell you, will try to enter and will not be able to" (Luke 13:24, NIV).

### C. What Is the Result Of Hungering and Thirsting after Righteousness?

1. "The lions may grow weak and hungry, but those who seek the LORD lack no good thing" (Psalm 34:10, NIV).
2. "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" (John 4:14, NIV).
3. "Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty'" (John 6:35, NIV).
4. "And I—in righteousness I will see your face; when I awake, I will be satisfied with seeing your likeness" (Psalm 17:15, NIV).

## II. THE RICHES OF THE KINGDOM

1. "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.  
'Again, the kingdom of heaven is like a merchant looking for fine pearls. When he found one of great value, he went away and sold everything he had and bought it" (Matthew 13:44-46, NIV).

### A. Daily Benefits

1. "But he was pierced for our transgressions, he was crushed for our iniquities; the punishment that brought us peace was upon him, and by his wounds we are healed" (Isaiah 53:5, NIV).
  - b. Within the first year after coming to the Lord, our oldest son, David, was healed.
2. "And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons" (Mark 16:17, NIV).
3. "Therefore, I urge you, brothers, in view of God's mercy, to offer your bodies as living sacrifices, holy and pleasing to God—this is your spiritual act of worship. Do not conform any longer to the pattern of this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind. Then you will be able to test and approve what God's will is—his good, pleasing and perfect will" (Romans 12:1-2, NIV).

#### B. Godliness with Contentment

1. "I have learned the secret of being content in any and every situation, whether well fed or hungry, whether living in plenty or in want. I can do everything through him who gives me strength" (Philippians 4:12-13, NIV).
2. "For I am already being poured out like a drink offering, and the time has come for my departure. I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith. Now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day—and not only to me, but also to all who have longed for his appearing" (II Timothy 4:6-8, NIV).

### III. FOOLS SEEK THE WRONG THINGS

1. "A longing fulfilled is sweet to the soul, but fools detest turning from evil" (Proverbs 13:19, NIV).

#### A. The World Hungers after the Wrong Things.

1. "My people have committed two sins: They have forsaken me, the spring of living water, and have dug their own cisterns, broken cisterns that cannot hold water" (Jeremiah 2:13, NIV).
2. "Do not love the world or anything in the world. If anyone loves the world, the love of the Father is not in him. For everything in the world—the cravings of sinful man, the lust of his eyes and the boasting of what he has and does—comes not from the Father but from the world. The world and its desires pass away, but the man who does the will of God lives forever" (I John 2:15-17, NIV).

#### B. Rich Young Ruler

1. "As Jesus started on his way, a man ran up to him and fell on his knees before him. 'Good teacher,' he asked, 'what must I do to inherit eternal life?' 'Why do you call me good?' Jesus answered. 'No one is good—except God alone. You know the commandments: "'Do not murder, do not commit adultery, do not steal, do not give false testimony, do not defraud, honor your father and mother'." 'Teacher,' he declared, 'all these I have kept since I was a boy.' Jesus looked at him and loved him. 'One thing you lack,' he said. 'Go, sell everything you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven. Then come, follow me.' At this the man's face fell. He went away sad, because he had great wealth" (Mark 10:17-22, NIV).

### CONCLUSION:

1. "To the hungry even what is bitter tastes sweet" (Proverbs 27:7, NIV).