

Text: Psalm 90:14

Theme: Satisfaction Guaranteed

August 6, 2017

How many times a week do you see the label, "Satisfaction Guaranteed," or "If you are not completely satisfied with this product, return it for a full refund?"

Manufacturers are trying their best to satisfy people who tend to be dissatisfied. In our Gospel today, Jesus satisfies a crowd of over 5,000 with bread and fish. Yet the real satisfaction He desired to offer, most of them never understood. Today, we focus on God's satisfaction and our theme: Satisfaction Guaranteed.

I. From the Psalmist, it is clear that God satisfies us. However, we are dissatisfied people. 1. We are dissatisfied because we think we need more. Every TV commercial, every billboard clamors for our attention and does its best to convince us that we need more, that enough is never enough. Think about the comparisons we so often make. We always compare ourselves to someone who has more, never someone on an equal plane or someone who has far less. Why? Because we use that as leverage to convince ourselves and everyone else that we surely deserve more, that, if we only had this or that, life would finally be wonderful.

2. We're dissatisfied because we don't believe God will provide. Suppose everyone in Taylor County believed that God would provide all they needed when they needed it during the next month? How much unrest, complaining, mumbling, and grumbling would you hear? Negativity is a clear indicator that we are dissatisfied and it's likewise a clear indication that we don't believe God will do what God has promised. We may have our reasons. We may have past events that have led us to believe God won't provide, but, whatever we have, we've been misled because God has never, in all of history, ever failed to provide what His people needed.

3. We're dissatisfied because we fail to understand the cross. Why did Jesus die? We know the answer, don't we? But do we know the whole truth or just the facts? Jesus came to take our place, to pay the price for our sins. The cross is all about Jesus, but, at the same time, it's all about us. We were the purpose for, the cause, the reason the cross needed to exist. Through that cross, we obtained forgiveness; our past mistakes were washed away. We were declared forgiven and our sins were forgotten forever. When we understand that truth and take it to heart, when that truth governs our lives, that's when dissatisfaction dissipates.

B. Since God promises, God will satisfy. 1. He satisfies us via the pronouncement of forgiveness. The Psalmist writes, "Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love." That unfailing, relentless love is best demonstrated in Christ's pronouncement of forgiveness. Is there any better means of finding satisfaction than relief from our guilt? Let me ask this question, "Can a person be satisfied and not believe they have been forgiven by God at the same time?" The primary key to satisfaction is forgiveness. When we believe we are fully and freely forgiven, suddenly new doors open and we find ourselves doing what we failed to do in the past.

2. He satisfies us by giving us His true Body and Blood. Within the next half hour, you will have the opportunity to kneel at this altar to receive Christ's true Body and Blood. It's what we call the "Real Presence," that Christ's Body and Blood are truly present in, with, and under the bread and wine in a supernatural way, a

way only faith can believe and accept. As you receive Christ in this personal way, as He comes to you individually, He says, "Here is your proof. Here is the indisputable evidence that I have forgiven you." With that indisputable evidence, contentment takes on a new definition that says, "I am content because Jesus lives and He lives in me!"

3. He satisfies us by providing all we need. In our Gospel, we're told that Jesus fed over 5,000 men, not including women and children. I don't know about you, but I'd call that a miraculous event. But there's another part of that event that we easily gloss over. Jesus fed over 5,000 and they were all satisfied, right? But what's the significance of the 12 baskets left over? If anyone wanted more, they could have more. God doesn't give us meager portions and leave us to struggle to find more. Instead, He always provides an abundance, more than we need and, when we realize that's how God operates, we learn God's view of satisfaction guaranteed.

4. He satisfies us by offering compassion. Why did Jesus heal the sick or feed the 5,000? The Psalmist writes, "Satisfy us in the morning with Your unfailing love." Consider this statement, "Where there is unfailing, never-ending love, there you will always find contentment." Repeatedly, Jesus offers compassion fully aware that compassion leads to contentment. Because God is a God of compassion, we have every reason to be people of contentment. If we need it, God will provide it. And if we are never lacking, won't we be content with whatever we have? Where we find God's compassion, we find God's people in contentment mode.

C. Because God satisfies, we respond. We respond with glad hearts. Our text says, "That we may sing for joy and be glad all our days." What do the birds do every morning, sometimes a bit earlier than we prefer? If nature knows how to sing and be glad, isn't it only logical that God's people would respond in like manner? And if we began each day with joy and gladness, wouldn't the rest of the day go much better? Wouldn't we choose to look beyond some of those other things that prompt complaints and grumbling? Convinced God satisfies, our response is to begin each day with joy, find joy within our day, and praise God as each day ends.

2. We respond by coming into His presence. The recurring theme of our Old Testament lesson is one of invitation. Realizing we already have enough, our hearts lead us to this place where we can offer our praise and appreciation. Gathered together in worship, we, collectively, offer our praise. As we witness others receiving the personal assurance of forgiveness, we prepare our hearts and gather at His altar to receive that same personal assurance. We can offer our appreciation in other places, but this place, this is the best place to gather so that together, as a unified whole, we can declare to our Creator, "Praise God from whom all blessings flow."

3. You will continue to see it on packaging for almost every item you purchase. But the next time you see those all too familiar words, remind yourself of the meaning beyond the world's simplistic meaning. Then say to your heart what you know to be true, "Because of my God, satisfaction is guaranteed!" Amen.