

Hunger

- Ecclesiastes 2:24-25- A person can do nothing better than to eat and drink and find satisfaction in their own toil. This too, I see, is from the hand of God, **25** for without him, who can eat or find enjoyment?
- Jesus is fasting for 40 days and satan tempts Him to turn stones into bread. But Jesus replies and says, "It is written: 'Man shall not live on bread alone, but on every word that comes from the mouth of God.' Matthew 4:4
- In this statement Jesus is telling us that, "Yes, food is necessary for life. You cannot live without food...but the words of God, are more important!" Every word that comes from the mouth of God gives life and freedom. Peter told Jesus, "Your words give eternal life." Every word requires breath and the breath of God is what gives life to us.
- "Is it Me that you want or is it 'revival' that you want? Do you really want Me, or do you want answered prayers? Miracles and breakthrough? Is it Me you're after or is it blessing you're after? **Do you want Me or do you want what I can do for you?"**
- Jesus said, know the truth and the truth will set you free. So if you want freedom, you don't seek freedom, you seek truth.
- **Many times, the church is more hungry for the things of God than they are for the God Who gives these things.**
- Eleven of 12 disciples chose to follow Jesus, just to be with Jesus. They weren't seeking fame, healing or prosperity. As a matter of fact it cost them a lot to follow Jesus. They lost their businesses, friends, popularity, and eventually, many of them lost their lives. **True disciples aren't hungry for the gifts, they're hungry for the Giver!**
- Will you follow Jesus if the only gift He ever gives you is salvation?
- "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled." Matthew 5:6
- Sometimes we think it says, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for the rewards or righteousness."
- **Those who's hunger is driven by the rewards, are never quite filled.**
- Do you hunger for righteousness?

- 1. Who is righteousness? Jesus is the embodiment, the perfect picture of righteousness. He is what we strive to be. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for Jesus! They will be filled.
- 2. Righteousness is not just Jesus, but righteousness is a way of living.
- Peter and Paul hungered for righteousness, they lived in obedience to God and it didn't get them many "blessings". Instead they were beaten, imprisoned, and murdered...but they were filled.
- 2 Kings 6 & 7- The people of Samaria took on desperate measures to fill their hunger. Women began to eat their babies. The wealthy people in the city were paying 80 shekels of silver, which is about \$653 to eat a donkey's head. The middle class people were paying 5 shekels or \$44 for 4 ounces of doves dung.
- 2 Kings 7:3-8- Now there were four men with leprosy at the entrance of the city gate. They said to each other, "Why stay here until we die? **4** If we say, 'We'll go into the city'—the famine is there, and we will die. And if we stay here, we will die. So let's go over to the camp of the Arameans and surrender. If they spare us, we live; if they kill us, then we die."
- **5** At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, no one was there, **6** for the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!" **7** So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives.
- **8** The men who had leprosy reached the edge of the camp, entered one of the tents and ate and drank. Then they took silver, gold and clothes, and went off and hid them.
- After this, they tell the good news to all the hungry people in Samaria, and they too come and eat and plunder the camp of the Arameans. The next day food was so abundant, that you could buy 12lbs of flour or 20lbs of barley for \$8.
- The tables turned and there was a miracle.
- We are a city under a spiritual siege. The enemy who has great hatred for us and wants to destroy us, has set up a siege around us. There is an unseen realm where the demonic is on an all out attack against us. This evil

spiritual realm is doing all it can to keep us from getting up and going out to find fresh food.

- What is our spiritual food? What is it that we live off of? Every word that comes from the mouth of God. The devil is working overtime to keep us from seeking and hearing the voice of God.
- Too many Christians are OK without fresh food, fresh revelation...they're ok with eating doves dung- food that someone else went out and got. Food that was already processed and digested.
- Too many Christians are ok snacking on the leftovers of what someone else ate yesterday. Too often we snack on sermons, devotionals, verse of the day, listening to other people worship on Spotify, and a short prayer here and there. The devil would love for you to snack on these things- because **snacks destroy hunger.**
- "If we don't feel strong desires for the manifestation of the glory of God, it is not because you have drunk deeply and are satisfied. It is because we have nibbled so long at the table of the world. Our soul is so stuffed with small things, and there is no room for the great." John Piper
- The Lord is looking for some people who won't settle for the snacks of a donkey's head or doves dung. A people who say, "Why stay here until we die?". Here isn't satisfying. Here will never fill my hunger. Doves dung isn't going to cut it. I hunger for righteousness! I hunger to hear the righteous, life-giving words of God for myself!
- These lepers were unexpected heroes who responded to the hunger deep in their souls and all they did was obey the hunger. **They didn't go looking to fight, they went looking for food.** As they obeyed their hunger, looking for food- **God** fought for them.
- If you will obey that hunger for righteousness that's deep inside your soul, the heavens will shake, the spiritual realm will tremble, and the armies of God will come roaring like the sound of horses and chariots on your behalf.
- *How do we obey the hunger? How do we find fresh food when we're under siege from the enemy?* You faithfully walk toward food.
- The 4 lepers didn't do anything impressive, all they did was walk to where the food was. They walked...And their obedience fought off an army and saved a city.
- What does walking look like for us? For us to walk toward the food that our souls crave- we pray, we fast, we read the Bible and we obey the Bible.

- In order to fill the deep hunger for righteousness- you walk. It's slow, mundane, not that exciting, it's not impressive, it's not flashy, it looks a lot like walking- faithfully putting one foot in front of the other.
- I wonder if those sick, diseased, starving men didn't start feeling **weary** as they walked.
- Too often, Christians become weary because it seems like their obedience is making no impact. "Weary Christian, don't give up."
- **Your eyes may not see the impact your obedience is making.** Your ears may not hear the chariots of heaven breaking the spiritual siege that surrounds us. But it's happening.
- v.5-7- At dusk they got up and went to the camp of the Arameans. When they reached the edge of the camp, no one was there, **6** for the Lord had caused the Arameans to hear the sound of chariots and horses and a great army, so that they said to one another, "Look, the king of Israel has hired the Hittite and Egyptian kings to attack us!" **7** So they got up and fled in the dusk and abandoned their tents and their horses and donkeys. They left the camp as it was and ran for their lives.
- When did the lepers get up? At dusk. When did the army flee? At dusk. **When you get up, God gets up, and the enemy runs!**
- Even though they didn't see it yet, even though their stomachs still groaned with hunger, they were free, they were rich, and all the food they could want was theirs.
- Church, don't get weary. Faithfulness and obedience shake the heavens and bring breakthrough. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."
- Your prayers may feel weak, your obedience may seem like it's not making a difference, but when we are obedient, it stirs up the heavens. When we are weak, He is strong!
- Galatians 6:8-9- Whoever sows to please their flesh, from the flesh will reap destruction; whoever sows to please the Spirit (whoever prays, fasts, reads the Bible and obeys the Bible), from the Spirit will reap eternal life. Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.
- There are so many things in this world to hunger for...and all but one leave us empty. May we be a people who hunger for righteousness. We hunger

for Jesus and Jesus alone. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness...for they will be filled.

WORSHIP SONG

CLOSE

- You are a city under siege. I will shake up the heavens, I am willing to...but I need some people who are willing to walk the long walk of obedience. Not getting tired, not getting weary, not giving up...but being stirred and driven by hunger, they walk in obedience.