

L.N. Jan. 19, 75 - A.M.

HUNGERS OF THE HUMAN HEART

John 6:35

INTRODUCTION:

Some one has said, back of the loaf, there is the flour. Back of the flour, the mill. And back of the mill, the sun and shower, and the Heavenly Father's will. We know that deep in every human heart, there is a hunger. And we know that all mankind hungers. All men everywhere hunger for what they do not deserve.

Believers - Psalm 42:1, as the heart panteth after the water brooks, so panteth my soul after thee.

Unbelievers - Isaiah 55:2 - Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? And your labor for that which satisfieth not?

There are some hungers that I wish to mention this morning.

I. HUNGER FOR FOOD

Perhaps the deepest and most painful hunger of all is for bread. Even the shout of fire or some other calamity is not an agony like the cry for bread. Even in a land of plenty someone telephones me almost every week to say that they do not have food to eat, clothes to wear or shelter.

Many make other requests but there are the transients, who come by begging. And almost all of them are hungry for food. And all are glad whenever someone makes it possible for them to get food.

You do not have to travel far to see starvation and to get a look at it. You look at the Eskimos in Alaska - how small an amount of food they have. You go to Mexico and you see there the hunger. You go to Cuba and you see the hunger of mothers begging, children on the street following you in large crowds. You see the Arabs in Jerusalem, looking for bread. In India, great famine and great starvation. The goal here in our country is that there will be food in every pantry for every person. That every person will be employed. That every person will make good wages.

Half of the world is hungry today. They do not go to sleep at night having had three square meals.

The Bible tells of seven years of famine in Egypt. It was so desperate that people brought gold to Joseph and purchased grain. When the money was gone, they brought their flocks, their herds, and their lands were offered. And then at last, they bartered themselves for bread. Gen. 47:13. There is not aught left in the sight of my Lord but our bodies, our lands, buy us and our land for bread.

Esau's attitude - what's a birthright if you cannot get food for your stomach. Food is a necessity. It is the fuel that gives us energy. Man works for bread by the sweat of his brow. Man's appetites must be satisfied.

Our text is taken out of the midst of a great miracle. Jesus fed 5,000. Phillip saw this crowd and he said, whence can a man satisfy these men with bread here in this wilderness. Jesus said, seek the multitudes. And then Andrew advised Jesus, there was a boy present who had brought along five loaves of bread and two fish. And so Jesus thanked God and fed the multitudes - everyone satisfied. Twelve baskets full left over. It shows the bounty of our Lord

and his ability to feed them there in that multitude. Now we discover that these people were hungry for bread. In the verses that we have in this chapter here, they were looking for real bread. And of course, Jesus said, I am the bread of life. It is not enough for us to simply think this is a lovely phrase. What does it mean. It means that bread sustains life. Bread is the staff of life. Without bread, life cannot go on. It is essential to life. Life is merely more than something physical that goes on. Real life is a new relationship with God. And this brings us into obedience and can only be made possible by Jesus Christ. And that is to say that Jesus gives life. And without Jesus, life is impossible, to be lived in the fullest term. So the first great hunger - is the hunger for bread.

II. HUNGER FOR KNOWLEDGE

In this story, in the 30th verse, the people said unto him, what sign showest thou then, that we may see and believe thee. What doth thou work. They were searching and hungry for knowledge about Jesus and about his power. And of course they went into the event in the Old Testament. They said that the manna had been given from God, or by Moses, and now they were saying prove this to our knowledge that you are the Messiah. We have an idea that while Moses provided the manna, when the new Messiah arrives, he would also provide us with manna as he provided the Jews in the wilderness. Now the giving of the manna was held to be the supreme work in the life of Moses. Of course they felt the Messiah was to equal or surpass. If the first redeemer could do that and cause manna to fall from Heaven. So the second redeemer could also cause manna to fall from Heaven.

Now Jesus first reminded them that it was not Moses who had given them the manna. It was God. And second, he told them that manna was really not the bread of God - it was the symbol of the bread of God. The bread of God, that he gives,

comes down from Heaven and satisfies not only the physical hunger - but life. And all the knowledge is satisfied by the matter that Jesus is the bread that comes down from Heaven.

Man is always searching for light. All of his life. We have wisdom and unless we have wisdom to control our knowledge, it becomes poison. Edison once said, we ought to quit our inventions for 20 years until people become good enough that they learn to use the inventions they already have. From the amazing scientific inventions today, we would agree that Edison was right. We must have faith and religion and consecration to catch up with the knowledge that we have. Now this hunger goes on. In the great universities - the collecting of information. So vast in the libraries of the land today.

A pulpit committee came to Dr. Westberry in a small South Carolina town, to hear him preach. They went back to Liberty, Mo., and they extended a call to him, to be the pastor of the church. He went out, and while he was visiting, he talked to Dr. Herbert, the President of William Jewell College. He says, I am really frightened to become the past of this congregation. There are so many Ph D's in the church. And Dr. Herbert replied, son, don't worry about those Ph D's. They are all sinners and they all need the gospel. They may know all about their field, but they all need to know more about God. And they need a man of God to tell them. Now surely there are many Ph D's who know God. And many are wonderful Christians. But there are many who do not know God. And whatever the case may be, they all have hearts that are hungry for God and for knowledge.

If we do not have the love of God in our heart, we remain unhappy and fools forever. We need to be based on the rock of ages. As John 8:32 says, if you continue in my word, then are you my disciples indeed. And ye shall know the

truth and the truth shall make your free.

III. HUNGER FOR COMPANIONSHIP - V. 24

*Couple on bike walk today - in Atlanta
over to you - we missed our
friends - wonderful to
be back -*

It tells us that after the miracle, Jesus left and his disciples disappeared - all except for one boat. And the people therefore saw that Jesus was not there. Neither his disciples - they also took ships and came seeking for Jesus. The hunger for companionship. We are by nature hungry for this. If you will study today the situation in the world and in the community, you witness a number of clubs to which people belong. All mankind seems to hunger for companionship. Some of the sweetest joys of life comes through communion with friends. What pleasure is there except we share with others.

Food tastes better when we eat with others. Few men like to go hunting, or fishing, or playing golf alone. Friends add spice to our lives. How wonderful it is to have the right kind of friendship and companionship.

Now the wrong kind of companionship is like poison. Someone has said, if you lie down with dogs, you get up with fleas. Companions make a man or a woman - they help to shape his or her character. Much of the juvenile delinquency could be avoided if parents could safe-guard their children's companions.

The swiftest route to ruin is bad associates.

Wise is the leader who reminds young people that one of the most important things in life is to select good companions. We are really hungry in our hearts for companionship. Hunger will never be met unless Jesus comes into our hearts - he is the best friend you will ever have. We can love, and trust, and adore him.

How sad it is to be disappointed in a friend. David knew that sadness. He said, I took sweet council with him in the house of the Lord, and yet it was he who betrayed me. Jesus also knew this when Judas came to betray him. He said, friend, what thou doest - do quickly.

Jesus is the dearest friend of all. He layed down his life saying, greater love hath no man than this. That a man lay down his life for his friend. Ye are my friend if ye do whatsoever I command you. John 15:13-14.

IV. THE HUNGER FOR BEAUTY

Throughout the world today, we find this. Ecc. 3:11 - He hath made everything beautiful in his time, also, he has set the world in their heart. God has given us a world of beauty to appreciate. Emmerson said, beauty is his who can entertain it. Beauty is like truth. And it belongs to the man who appreciates it.

Now many of you perhaps have seen the Calloway Gardens, in Ga., and they have some good words to offer you. Remove nothing from the gardens except nourishment for the soul. Consolation for the heart. And inspiration for the mind.

Now those who litter the grounds or deface the scenery, evidently have no appreciation of beauty.

In Mobile, Bellingrath Gardens, visitors are reminded - "may it not be said and said to your shame that all was beauty here until you came."

We have the Azalea Gardens in Norfolk. How beautiful and who wonderful they are. And God has made a beautiful world. As we admire it, And we look at just a

portion of it. But that cannot really satisfy our souls. For Christ is the true beauty of perfectness - love, and insight. He is the ultimate beauty of God himself. Why did God make all things beautiful.

Fair is the sunshine
Fairer still the moonlight
And all the twinkling, starey hosts
Jesus shines brighter,
Jesus shines purer,
Than all the angels Heaven can boast.

There is the hunger for beauty.

V. THE HUNGER FOR LOVE

Man also has a hunger for love. We recognize this when we talk about the hunger for companionship. What a man loves has a tremendous effect upon him personally. What he loves, tells what he is.

Some people love money until they grow cold on the inside. Some people love each other, until they grow to look like each other. Have you ever noticed this. A couple who have been married for 50 years - they love each other, and they even grow to look like each other.

Love transfigures. Love inspires. And there is something about it that is a hunger in a man's heart.

On the other hand, the wrong kind of love is poison. Love may dissipate.

It may turn to sin, and the pleasures of the world. And it may in some degree cause us to satisfy this hunger in worldly things. But God is love - and he that dwelleth in God, in his love - God dwelleth in him. There in the human heart, it can never be satisfied until the heart is full of his love.

Bruce Barton wrote a parable about the two kinds of love. And he used the two seas in Palestine.

There are two seas in Palestine - one is fresh and fish are in it. Splashes of green adorn it's banks. Trees spread their branches over it, and stretch out their roots to get in it's healing water. Along it's shore, children play. The river Jordan makes this seas with sparkling water from the hills - so at last, in the sunshine, and men build their houses near it. And birds, their nests. And every kind of life is healthier because it is there.

The river Jordan flows on South into another sea. Here is no splash of fish, no fluttering leaves, no song of birds, no children's laughter. The travelers chose another route. Unless on urgent business. The air hangs above it's waters. And neither man nor beast, nor foul will drink.

What makes this mighty difference in these major seas. Not the river Jordan - it empties the same water into both. Not the soil in which they lie. Not the country around about.

There is a difference.

The sea of Galilee receives but does not keep the Jordan - for every drop that flows into it, flows out. The giving and receiving go on in equal measure.

The other sea is selfish, pouring its income diligently - every drop it gets

- it keeps. The sea of Galilee gives and lives.

The other sea gives not - it is called the Dead Sea. There are two kinds of seas in Palestine - there are two kinds of people in the world.

If a sea has no outlet, as the Dead Sea it stagnates. And this is what happens to a man's heart if it has no outlet for love. If it does not have any place where love can be given out. Then it misses that perfect love.

Think of (Lady MacBeth) who had murdered her husband - what hands are here. They pluck out mine eyes. Will all great Neptunes ocean wash this blood clean from my hands. Her hand was clean but there was blood on her heart, and on her conscience. "

Perhaps there are some of you that feel you cannot live in the future. Without living in the past. I've good news for you - you do not have to remain what you have been. You can be different. You can be better than you are. Christ died for you and if you will repent of your sins, confess, and forsake - and believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and commit yourself to him and trust him, his grace will save you. He will make you a new creation in Christ.

What is your standard of righteousness. Jesus said, accept your righteousness shall exceed the righteousness of the Scribes and the Pharisees, ye shall in no wise enter into the kingdom of Heaven.

Jesus also said, blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

VI. HUNGER FOR HAPPINESS

Everybody wants to be happy. These disciples had in their hearts a great hunger for happiness. And some of these people who were following after Christ, seeking him, searching him out, they were hunting for happiness. Now I think this is a by-product of a satisfied hunger. Man seeks happiness in various ways.

Some think they can find happiness by listening to live music. It seems that by doing this, they keep trying not to hear themselves think.

There are others who say, they would be happy if they could make a lot of money. They could buy all the things they wanted. But riches are not everything. And they may not really satisfy and make a person happy.

Someone told about a man once who put \$350,000 in a safety deposit box in the bank and then he worried himself to death because he was not getting any interest. So a man's life does not consist of the abundance of his possessions.

Others say that they will be happy when they quit work - they can just sit down and rest and do nothing. But some of these are the most miserable people on earth. They are the people who are idle.

There are other people who hunger for happiness and measure it by accomplishment. There are those who like to read a book, look at a picture, go to plays - and do whatever they please. And this they say, will satisfy the hunger of happiness. There are still others, who say, if I had prestige, power, fame, and honor - then I would truly be happy. Someone said about Napoleon - after gaining his fame, he made a remark that he did not have a single friend. No, we cannot gain happiness from the standpoint of fame, or wealth, in this world.

The secret of real happiness and real joy is found only in Jesus Christ. The happiest people I know today are those who know Christ and who are busy for Christ. Religion in the heart makes one happy. And out of the heart are the issues of life. For as a man thinketh in his heart - so is he. Happy or unhappy.

In thinking about the prodigal son - why did the prodigal leave home - he wanted life. He wanted happiness. There was a hunger in his life. How did he interpret life. Why today he would say - he wanted clothes. He wanted shoes. He wanted jewelry. He wanted a plenty to eat and a plenty to drink.

Life was interpreted by the material. Now that is what many people go after. But Christ comes along and says - I am come that you might have life. I am the very bread of life. As our text says. I am the bread that satisfies this hunger. Do not work for the meat that perishes. Do not make your life revolve around which cannot satisfy. Work for the bread that comes down from Heaven and reaches the deepest necessity and need of your life.

Now the prodigal - all the things he sought - he found when he got back home! His father said, bring forth the best robe and put it on him. He went to get clothes and he lost them. But his father had them.

Put shoes on his feet - that is what he went to get. And he came back bare-footed. His father found them. And put shoes on his feet.

Put a ring on his hand - he wanted jewelry. Jewels when he went away. And he found them when he returned.

He wanted to have plenty to eat and found starvation. He was eating with

the hogs. It was his father who said, bring forth the fatted calf and let us eat. He wanted a good time and he found misery. It was the father who said, let us be merry.

The Well That Never Runs Dry - City - Favorite Well in The Park - Moody Ash Man 'Don Well ever run dry? Man was drinking, stopped, smacked lips - said - They never been able to pump it dry yet. My trial few yrs ago, put fire-engines to work, trial pumps dry but found there was a river flowing right under the city!'

So all of these people are trying to get or are really in the last analysis into the father's house. And you cannot get it apart from God. Now

Thank God, The Well of Salvation can never run dry!
All your hunger satisfied in Christ.
these people here - they wanted life through bread. And here was Jesus - able

to give it. And so you listen to him as he utters the supreme claim - I am the bread of life. From then until now, wherever and whenever humanity has found a hunger satisfied - it has been when they have come to the place and read this sign. I am the bread of life. And it is supreme folly for a man to search for a bread anywhere else. Whosoever trusteth in the Lord, happy is he. Prov. 16:20.

The satisfaction of man's hungers - for bread, for knowledge, for companionship, for beauty, for love, for happiness - God has the answers. My God shall supply all of your needs according to his riches in Glory by Christ Jesus. Phil. 4:19. There is nothing we hunger for that God cannot supply. He can meet the deepest need of the soul. He has the key to unlock your heart and bring to you that which satisfies.

We want many things. But what we need is Jesus. We need pardon, cleansing, comfort, peace. And Jesus said blessed are they that do hunger after righteousness for they shall be filled. The tragedy is that we hunt for things in other places. What will take place - if you partake of this bread of life.

First, there comes the new satisfaction. The hunger is gone. The human heart finds what it has been searching for. What it has been looking for.

The human heart finds that even beyond life we are safe. Even on the last days when all things end - we are still safe. Christ brings us to the Heaven beyond. There is no danger. So the offer of Christ through time and eternity is

the invitation of Christ and the moving of God. Is your soul starved - Christ will feed it. Is your soul sick. Christ will heal it. Is your heart black with sin - Christ will cleanse it. If you are lost, Christ will save you. Why? Because Jesus said I am the bread - and I satisfy the hunger in the human heart.