

S. W. Oct 9, 83 AM
World Hunger Day -

"OLD CORN FOR WORLD HUNGER"

Joshua 5:12

10 And the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land.

INTRODUCTION:

We eat three meals a day and some folks have sandwiches from 3-4 snacks between meals. And when we are not eating, we are thinking about what we are going to eat next.

There is an old Proverb on hunger -

Hunger fetches the wolf out of the woods.

Hunger finds no fault with the cooking.

Hunger is good kitchen meat.

Hunger is the best sauce.

Hunger makes raw beans a relish.

Hungry horses make a clean manger.

Hungry men think the cook is lazy.

We are thinking this morning about world hunger. And the personal experiences of people around the world, and trying to somehow share some of these personal experiences with other folks.

Now of course, there have been such things as hunger/strikes. And there have been

may be perils that would destroy your body, mind, and soul forever. You cannot afford to do that.

And so here was a sustaining supply. Every morning, they received a supply. You want bread at noon - then you can find a place to kneel and to find it. If Jonah could make and find a prayer room in the whale, most certainly you will never be in a too crowded place that you cannot pray when you receive bread at noon. What about at the evening hour - when the day's engagements are over. And you have time to thank God for the sustaining bread. It is bread that sustains you. And you know it the moment you see it.

Now, I know you know what a corn field is like. We used to have corn fields all around the house. And I do not need today to hunt up some man in agriculture to give me a picture of corn. I was born right in sight of a corn field. And I know all about it. When these Israelites came to Canaan, and they looked off upon the fields, the cry was corn, corn. And every man has once tasted of this heavenly bread - he knows it right away. He can tell this corn of the Gospel. Canaan - from the chaff, which the wind driveth away. It is the bread of which, if a man eats, he will never, never, never hunger.

Fifth, starvation. Now they were hungry as they started out in the wilderness. They were fed. When they came to the promised land they felt that they would starve to death. But there was a plain, magnificent harvest right out before them. And all that they had to do was to partake.

Think of Miss Bonnie Jones - 72 year old woman, who has no family. She lives alone in Florida. She used to take in sewing. And now only, her monthly Social Security Check. She said, I get one good meal a day - at the Senior Adult Center. But otherwise, she says, I am forgotten. Her main diet consists of soups and breakfast cereals, cream of chicken soup. And she says, if I get a chance to talk with one person a day, I am happy.

When we as Christians think how that in Nigeria - in 1983 when the government expelled a lot of people from their country. And some are stranded, some are starving, some are poor, and some are hungry. We have 19 Southern Baptist missionaries in Togo who have been helping with this emergency time. The missionaries there, began buying food and going among the refugees, and some days they gave out 35,000 loaves of French bread. You remember, Jesus said, I was hungry and you fed me.

Did you know there are 2.8 million women over the age of 65 in poverty in the United States. One out of 5 aged widows, is poor. And then you hear people argue over white meat and dark meat. There are some lessons to learn here from this program of God. This old corn satisfied the soul hunger. It was suitable for all of them and it was satisfying to their needs.

Fourthly, it was sustaining. In the old program, Jesus furnished bread - and it was enough for them to eat and to have meals, and to prevent starvation. But we look to our table, morning, noon, and night - and sometimes we forget - what is the bread. Just as certainly, you need Jesus three times a day. Oh, you do not need to start the day without him. You do not dare to go off of your front door steps before noon - there

Isn't it marvelous. How it is suitable and satisfying for all people.

Think today about down in Paraguay. An 8 month old daughter lives in a two room unpainted straw-roofed home. All of the furniture is two chairs, a small table, and a mosquito net. There is no kitchen - all of the cooking is done out of doors. For their simple meals, four plates, two bowls, and a large pan for cooking stew. Three glasses to drink out of. And they live off of \$5.00/a day - which is spent on meat bones to make stew. And rarely they eat vegetables.

Or think about Bangladesh - where some eat two meals a day. Abdul Halim had four children. He does not read or write. He would not know what three good meals a day would be like. His oldest son would like to go to school - but books are too expensive. On one little small plot of land - (less than 1/4 of an acre) he feeds his family. But that makes him better off than 35 million other of his own people who own no land at all. With a meal of rice, a small portion of soup, a few hot peppers. Maybe a cup of tea - twice a day. If there is work, he tries to go and work. And if he could find work every day - he would make \$400 a year. You talk about soul hungry. Satisfying.

There is a Pastor of a small church up in Upper Bolta - which he has a wife and two small children, who tries to get by with a small garden, and makes chairs from melet stalks. His yearly income is about \$70 and from that, he has to pay taxes and buy clothes. And mostly one meal a day is what they get.

And if anyone gets sick, the nearest drug store is 10 miles away.

This old corn is suitable for all people. It is food that will due for all people. It is not the kind of food that is good for one group, and not good for another. But it is good for the weak, good for the strong. Have you ever noticed - how that all people, however weak they may be. However sick they may be, they can take bread. And we find that this is a suitable food for every soul. For everyone.

3 Thirdly- it is satisfying. It is satisfying. That is another characteristic about bread. When these people came into Canaan, you never get tired of it. I don't know anyone that gets tired of bread. People have been here on this earth for 70 years, and they still have an appetite for bread. When in childhood, you remember you could eat a slice of bread, or a biscuit ^{Mama made -} and you did not get tired of eating that bread.

Belfour Rolls - military

Did you ever know an old Christian who got tired of Jesus. Have you ever heard one say, let's take the name of Jesus out of our Bible. Let's erase His name out. Let's name His name out of the hymnbook. And let - There Is A Fountain, And Rock Of Ages, out into forgetfulness.

Let us take down the Communion Table, let us remove the Baptismal Pool. And let us just hurl Jesus out of our heart and say - go away Jesus. I want some other companion, I want some other friend. The years of your past life - your grandfather, oh, he would say - don't do that. Jesus is the one to whom we say our prayers at night. And who is to open Heaven, when we die, for us. And he would say - tired of Jesus. No, never get tired of Jesus. Jesus is bread and the appetite for that is never quenched. It is the most satisfying bread in all of this universe. The hunger is fed by the old corn.

I would like to have something prepared in Paris or someplace else. And in fact, people began to make and eat corn, and syrops, custards. But that group said, get us plain bread - made out of the old corn of the Gospel. And that was the only food that satisfied the soul's hunger.

There are men here who hardly know what is the matter with them. They have tried to get together a fortune. There are others who are trying to satisfy the soul in so many ways. They are trying, so many people, to feed off of this or that, or the other. And there are those who are trying to be satisfied with what the Communists might give them for their soul's food. And people today, in science, try to kill God.

What I am saying to you is, that Christ is the bread of life. Taking him, you live. And live forever.

But you say corn is but little practical use unless it is threshed, ground, and baked. I want to answer to you that the Gospel corn has gone through that process. Calvary was the place where Jesus took his place, and then went and descended to Hell, and the flames. And the corn is baked. Christ is ready, his pardon is ready, his peace is ready. Everything is ready - are you ready to have your soul fed by Him. You say that is the simple Gospel - you know it is. It is without any mixture or elaboration. It is so plain that it is powerful. Christ died to save you from sin. And Hell.

Second, suitable for all. One thing to notice, about feeding this hungry world.

In some countries, it is impossible for a man to raise even a little garden. Because of taxation and other things by the government. And then there is the hopelessness and attitude of many people who look on hunger and fail to meet the need or answer to it.

III. SOME LESSONS

Let us see what the old corn has to say to us in feeding a hungry world.

First, soul hunger. The only food that could take care of a soul hunger of these people was that which was provided by God. After 14,600 consecutive days of falling manna, Sunday accepted, the manna ceased. Now there might have been some who said, we are glad of it. They had complained to their leader. They, some of them, wanted to eat onions instead of manna. Some of them wanted to eat meat. But those people in that (large group), had never seen the corn field. And when they hear the leaves rustling and the tassels waving, and the billows of green flowing, as the wind touches them - it must have been a new and a lively sensation. Corn cried the old man, as he husk an ear. Corn cried the children, as they counted the shiney grains. Corn shouted the people, as they made their way into the graineries. The population had left - they had left their possessions. A fire was kindled, the ears of corn were thrust into it. And fresh, crisp, and tender. And it was devoured by these hungry victors. Bread was prepared. And many things that can be made out of flour. Blessed their appetites. The Bible says, and the manna ceased on the morrow after they had eaten of the old corn of the land.

Blessed be God, we stand in just such a field today. Ripe corn, the corn of the Gospel. Right fresh from Canaan. Oh, you say, that (food is too plain.)

food is being produced. But the problem is, that there are poor and hungry people - where food distribution systems are unable to meet the supply.

2 Secondly, affluence explosion. Did you know that experts say that hunger is growing because of this. The average American consumes 1600# of grain annually. While the average from developing countries is slightly more than 400# per person. With India averaging only 350#.

3 Third, climate. In different parts of the world, the climate and the conditions have much to do with hunger. Famine, flooding, drought, storms, freezing.

4 Resource depletion. The limitation of the earth's supply. Shortage of four basic things. Water, energy, land, fertilizer.

5 Pervasive poverty. Which has to do with our economic and political systems. Simply because of this, people die. The system will not take care of them.

6 Wages in many countries are low. One billion people exist on this earth on a per capita income of less than \$150 per year.

There is little of this wilderness manna for you. But God said, I will not leave you, I will not forsake you. And as a father pittieth his children, so the Lord pittieth them that he loves. Hence we find that God takes care of the situation in an emergency relief program.

Someone will ask - what is the extent of hunger today? One out of every four persons on this earth, live in the state of absolute poverty. They are trapped by conditions by which they were born. 20 million people die each year of starvation and hunger. 12 million of them are children who die, before they are age 5. Every day about 30,000 children starve to death.

28 human beings die of starvation each minute.

More people starve to death in 3 days than were killed at Hiroshima.

Did you know starvation has killed more people in the last five years than all of the wars, revolutions, and murders of the last century. Why read such figures - they are just too much for me to comprehend. Why? Because few of us have ever seen a human being starve to death.

Somebody will ask - what causes hunger? It seems that everybody ought to be fed. First population explosion. This world is rapidly growing. And however, enough

And, lo, there was bread enough for all of this worn out host.

II. EMERGENCY RELIEF PROGRAM

Now upon entering into the Promised Land, God works another relief program for them and takes care of their hunger. This is a special relief or special emergency. Crossing the wilderness, they had not received bread, except from the Heavenly bakers. And there had been a long line of dead people left in the sands of the desert. It would be told in history and in the world, and this was a great company of good people who had started out from Egypt, and they were never heard of again - had it not been for God's emergency relief program.

They would have been lost like the Lost Colony down at Roanoke Island. Lost in the wilderness. Now, what use was it for them - there was plenty of corn in Canaan or plenty of corn in Egypt. What they wanted was something to eat right there. There was not so much a blade of green grass in that sandy desert. There is so much want from the ordinary comforts and the ordinary directions - it is painful that physical distress through which they must go. This is something that our Lord went through - he suffered, as Robert Hall, one time said. Oh, I suffer terribly. But I didn't cry out while I was suffering - did I cry out. Is it long, a long shadowing bereavement when breath is short. And soon the individual says, I cannot endure it. We wait up to our troubles. And there was manna all around the Israelites.

We do the same. Yet, present, there is a vacant chair opposite your chair. There is the choking sense of loneliness. There is a blot of grief. And your appetite fails.

you would have liked those black waiters. God provided food. And the Israelites in special obedience to him, every morning the manna came, except on the 6th morning. An extra portion of manna was to be taken for the Sabbath Day of rest. The gathering of the manna was important. They gathered the food so that no one would go unfed.

Another point to note, there was to be (no hoarding) of food. There was to be no gluttony. Now anyone who refused to follow God's instructions, was provided a warning. And their stewardship was to be exactly as God had stated that it should be. Haven taken the last bite of the manna in their fingers, put it to their lips, they look out - and there is no manna.

Why this sensation of Heavenly (supply). It was because the Israelites had arrived in Canaan. And they smelled and breathed the air of the harvest fields. And the crowded barns in the country. All of the inhabitants had (fled). And in the Name of the Lord of Hosts, the Israelites took possession of everything. As well as the threshing floor. It was clear. The corn was scattered. The corn is prepared. Bread is made for all. The manna ceased on tomorrow, after they had eaten the old corn of the land.

This is the second (great miracle) that took place. Their manna ceased. For forty years that manna had been coming down from Heaven. But (now) they were eating of the new harvest of the promised land. The temporary provision of their food had ceased. When it was no longer necessary and it was a standing miracle for forty years. God provided the food for them.

people who have tried to set a record. In Germany, November 15, 1953, there was news of Willie Schmitz a professional hunger artist. He claimed a new world record. He fasted for 80 days and 5 hours. He claims that he only had mineral water and that his weight dropped from 158# to 92#. He climbed out of the glass cage, completely exhausted, and was taken to the hospital. He told reporters the previous record was 80 days and 1 hour. Held by an Indian. And there are people who meet and have fasting duals. The Germans paid 23¢ to see this man during the fast. This was his tenth in 27 years. It would be something if people would get hungry for the Word of God.

I. THE TASK OF FEEDING THE WORLD

Only those who have had something to do with an Army or a large group of people, know what a job it is to feed and to clothe 5 or 6 hundred thousand men. There was such a host marching across the desert. They were cut off from all supplies. There was no rail trains bringing down food, or blankets. Shall they all perish. No, the Lord comes from Heaven. And he rescues them and he touches the shoes and the coats which in a year or two would have been worn to rags. And they are storm proof, and they are time proof, for 40 years.

Besides that, every morning there is a shower of bread. The people are beginning to lose faith in God, because they feared they would die, of hunger in the wilderness. So they complained to Moses - they blamed him. And God heard their murmurings and he sent bread from Heaven.

Now these marching Israelites in the wilderness were fed this manna. I suppose it was good food. You know the ravens brought food to hungry Elijah. I do not know how

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our suffering, he is able to make us stronger persons. God can turn our suffering into victory. When we have reached the end of the rope, it is time to tie and knot and hang on.

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