

SERIES: WHEN HEAVEN COLLIDES

Are you on a collision course to encounter God?

SERMON: HUNGER GAMES

5-2-21

OPENER:

How hungry are you? Did you have breakfast this morning?

ILLUSTRATION:

Three of the best foods in town! Cafe Alley sweet potato fries - Chick-fil-A - Starbucks - We get so hungry for these. We crave them. What will you do to get one of these meals?

All of these establishments have huge waits.

>You'll sit in line at Starbucks for 20min just to get your favorite coffee. Or you think that since there is 15 cars in the drive through that it will be better to go inside. But no, that's deceiving. Sure, you step up to the counter and they take your order, but then you sit in java land forever waiting for them to call your name! On Sunday's you need to come here!

>You'll brave the lunch hour rush at Chik-fil-A and sit in the street, putting your life in danger, to make sure you get your favorite lunch combo!

>At Cafe Alley, it's nothing to wait 45 min to an hour, there have been times I have waited an hour and a half to be seated at Cafe Alley.

But you'll wait. You'll adjust your schedule. You'll call work and let them know you will be back late. You'll delay your next appointment. You'll call the babysitter and let her know that you'll be home late for that night out!

You'll wait! You'll make time! Because you know how good it will taste!

Oh the lengths we will go to when we are hungry!!!

1. GOD RESPONDS TO OUR HUNGER

Matthew 5:6 Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

ILLUSTRATION:

Hazel wants a snack. I don't want her to be hungry, so I fill her hunger.

Rainy when she eats she is a noisy eater. She growls when she eats.

When we are hungry God feeds us.

Where there is no hunger nothing is given.

**LIKE A GOOD FATHER GOD FILLS US WHEN WE ARE HUNGRY.
GOD PROMISES THAT IF YOU HUNGER AND THIRST
HE WILL FEED YOU.**

Note:

The first key Greek word -“hunger” has the sense of a strong desire for food. It is the same word that was used to describe Jesus’ hunger after He had been in the wilderness for 40 days and nights without food (Matthew 4:2). After 40 days of fasting, Jesus would have been very hungry. This Greek word describes a strong hunger for food.

The next key Greek word that Jesus uses is dipsao. It also describes a strong desire, but this time for water. It was used in John 19:28 to describe Jesus’ thirst after He had been whipped and beaten for hours by the Roman soldiers and then had been left hanging on the cross for hours. Near the end, Jesus cried out for something to drink and said, “I thirst.” That is the word Jesus used in this beatitude.

The last important Greek word that Jesus used was chortazo. The word was used to refer to fattened cattle. That is, it means having all that you want. This animal or person is completely satisfied.

These Greek words for hunger and thirst are both in the present tense. This means that Jesus was describing someone who was continually hungering and thirsting.

So Jesus was saying this.....

Blessed are those who are constantly, continually hungering and thirsting after righteousness, for they shall be completely and totally satisfied.

Matthew 5:6

THE THINGS OF THIS LIFE DO NOT SATISFY.

Ecclesiastes 1:2 Everything is meaningless,” says the Teacher, “completely meaningless!”

Ecclesiastes 1:8 Everything is wearisome beyond description. No matter how much we see, we are never satisfied. No matter how much we hear, we are not content.

Application:

We rarely stop long enough to realize that we are never satisfied in this life. We always want to see something new. We always want something new. The same is true with what we hear. We always want to hear something

new. The ear is never satisfied with what it heard yesterday or the eye with what we saw last week. We always want to see or hear something new.

The verse could be rewritten as, *“Empty of empties. All is empty.”*

ILLUSTRATION:

No matter how hard you work. No matter how hard you try in life. Life is like a soap bubble. Eventually, it goes “pop” and there is nothing. Life is a “big fat zero.”

**WE HAVE A HUNGER OF THE SOUL THAT ONLY GOD
CAN SATISFY.
GOD WANTS TO FILL US AND GIVE US PEACE.**

ILLUSTRATION:

When God fills us it’s like everyone after eating the Thanksgiving meal. Napping, full, satisfied, happy!

2.WHEN YOU ARE STARVING YOU ARE WILLING TO EAT ANYTHING

John 6:35 Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.

ILLUSTRATION:

There is a condition that people get into when they need to eat and haven’t eaten. They become irritable, impatient, edgy, touchy, gripey, tired, weak. They call it the condition of being “hangry”. These symptoms that are associated with being “hangry” are the same symptoms that come with not spending time feasting on the Lord.

**WE WILL BE CONSUMED WITH AN UNQUENCHABLE
THIRST AND A CONSUMING HUNGER IF WE DO NOT EAT
OF THE LORD.**

**WE ARE STARVING AND WE DON’T EVEN KNOW IT!
WE ARE “HANGRY” FOR GOD’S PRESENCE.**

ILLUSTRATION: THE ISRAELITES WERE HANGRY

Exodus 16:16-21 These are the Lord's instructions: Each household should gather as much as it needs. Pick up two quarts for each person in your tent."

17 So the people of Israel did as they were told. Some gathered a lot, some only a little. 18 But when they measured it out, everyone had just enough. Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough. Each family had just what it needed.

19 Then Moses told them, "Do not keep any of it until morning." 20 But some of them didn't listen and kept some of it until morning. But by then it was full of maggots and had a terrible smell. Moses was very angry with them.

21 After this the people gathered the food morning by morning, each family according to its need.

John 6:32 -33 Jesus said, "I tell you the truth, Moses didn't give you bread from heaven. My Father did. And now he offers you the true bread from heaven. 33 The true bread of God is the one who comes down from heaven and gives life to the world."

WE HAVE NOT EXPERIENCED THE MIRACLE OF MANNA FALLING FROM HEAVEN.

**WE HAVE AN EVEN GREATER MIRACLE AVAILABLE TO US EVERY MORNING.
JESUS - THE BREAD OF LIFE.**

Jesus satisfies us. "*Taste and see that the Lord is good!*" A hearty helping of Him every morning will sustain you. It will keep you and give you the strength to get through whatever comes your way.

BUT WE DON'T LET OUR SOULS FEAST ON HIS PRESENCE AND WE ARE STARVING AND HUNGRY.

WE ARE EMPTY AND BECOME DISCOURAGED, DEPRESSED, DISSATISFIED, BITTER, RESENTFUL AND WEAK.

AND JUST LIKE STARVATION WILL SHOW UP IN YOUR PHYSICAL BODY, SO WILL SPIRITUAL STARVATION.

MAYBE NOT AS QUICKLY, BUT IT WILL BEGIN TO BE NOTICED AND YOU WILL START REACHING FOR THINGS TO SATISFY.

Statistics of people starving around the world.

- 2. About 690 million people worldwide go to bed hungry each night.**
- 3. An estimated 14 million children under the age of five worldwide suffer from severe acute malnutrition, also known as severe wasting.**

In some countries where meat is scarce they boil insects to eat. In extreme conditions of famine people have made soup out of tree leaves and make bread out of roots.

WHEN YOU ARE STARVING YOU ARE WILLING TO EAT ANYTHING.

ILLUSTRATION:

Food that would normally repulse you, you are willing to eat because you are so hungry. Things that you would never even consider eating you are willing to try when you are starving.

WHEN WE DON'T EAT SPIRITUAL FOOD WE ENTER A SPIRITUAL STARVATION MODE.

WE ARE WILLING TO EAT WORLDLY THINGS TO FEED OUR HUNGER.

BUT JESUS SAYS, COME TO ME AND YOU WILL NEVER BE HUNGRY AGAIN.

3. WE HAVE CURBED OUR SPIRITUAL APPETITE

ILLUSTRATION:

Diet suppressants make big claims.

Curb something is- to suppress it, restrain it, control it or “kick it to the curb”

WE HAVE SUPPRESSED OUR APPETITE FOR SPIRITUAL THINGS!

ILLUSTRATION:

Eat sugar crave sugar. The more sugar you eat, the more you crave it. Eat junk crave junk. You stop becoming hungry for good healthy food. In fact, good food stops tasting good. You stop craving good food. You lose your hunger for good things.

**WE ARE ALL EATING BUT SOME ARE EATING THE JUNK OF THE WORLD
AND IT HAS LEFT YOU SPIRITUALLY UNHEALTHY , SICK AND WEAK.**

Psalm 23:5 You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies.

Many of us didn't know that Jesus was a restaurateur. He is! He is a great host! A great chef! The best.

ILLUSTRATION:

Visiting a great restaurant. You walk in, smells great, but everyone is sitting there just staring at their food.

JESUS HAS SET THE TABLE BUT YOU ARE REFUSING TO EAT.

**WE ARE NOT HUNGRY FOR WHAT HE IS SERVING BECAUSE WE HAVE
MADE OURSELVES FULL ON THE THINGS OF THIS WORLD.**

CLOSING:

Isaiah 55:1-2 Is anyone thirsty? Come and drink— even if you have no money! Come, take your choice of wine or milk— it's all free! ² Why spend your money on food that does not give you strength? Why pay for food that does you no good? Listen to me, and you will eat what is good. You will enjoy the finest food.

There is only one place we can go to get the food that will feed us spiritually. There is only one place to go to eat and be totally satisfied. It's in the presence of God.

**HOW DO YOU SATISFY YOUR HUNGER? EAT!
EAT HIS WORD! FEAST ON HIS PRESENCE.**

**WITH HIM YOU DON'T ORDER FROM THE MENU.
LET HIM FEED YOU WHAT YOU NEED.**

**HE KNOWS WHAT YOU HAVE NEED OF.
YOU WILL ENJOY IT!**

**YOU CAN'T LIVE OFF OF ONLY SNACKS.
YOU HAVE TO SIT AT THE TABLE LONG ENOUGH
TO GET FULL!**