

Hunger For God #1

The Hunger To Be Happy

Introduction

- A.** Set up questions
 - How do we grow in our hunger for God?
 - Are you hungry for God?
 - Why is this important?
- B.** You cannot make somebody hungry
- C.** Psalm 37:4 NRSV
 - I want the desires of my heart, but
 - Sometimes I delight in me
- D.** Premise: It is difficult to grow when I do not have an appetite, so if I want to grow in my relationship with God, I need a greater appetite for Him.
- E.** We are all hungry to be Happy

I. Happiness is a Big Deal

- A.** It is even part of our Declaration of Independence
- B.** Popular songs
- C.** Harvard study
- D.** Millennials
- E.** 3,000 years ago, Solomon pondered same things

II. Ecclesiastes

- A.** The story
- B.** Ecclesiastes 1:1-2 NRSV
- C.** It's all hă·bêl – vapor, smoke
 - Temporary, fleeting
 - A paradox
 - So much beauty in the world,
 - But just when we are enjoying it, it blows away
- D.** Solomon's conclusion: Ecclesiastes 12:13 NRSV
- E.** Fear God. Do what He says (The Message)
 - A healthy relationship with God is the only thing that can give life any meaning
 - All others relationships will fall short of their full potential if our relationship with God is missing

III. Jesus

- A.** 4th Beatitude: Matthew 5:6 NRSV
 - Blessed – Happy
 - Filled – God will satisfy them fully
 - Righteousness – God's way of doing things
 - Righteousness was NOT on anybody's list

- Matthew 6:33 NLT

B. Feeding the 5,000: John 6:25-29 NRSV

- The context
- VS 25-26
 1. Jesus did things only God could do
 2. They just wanted lunch
- VS 27-28
 1. The Jews wanted another list
 2. Jesus is offering eternal life
- VS 29
 1. Jesus reduces "works" down to one thing
 2. Believe in Him
 3. Sadly, the Jews missed it
- How about us?

C. Believe IN Him

- What is the most important word?
- The middle word has the power
- Connects the action with the source
- Without this word, we are just left believing
- We believe a lot of things – doesn't make them true
- Lakers
- "in" connects my belief to Jesus
- Now my belief has substance

D. Illustration

- 75 In Christ or In Him verses in the New Testament
- Joy, Righteousness, Hope, Peace, Strength
- All found "IN" Him
- Believing this is where the work is

IV. Closing Thoughts

- A.** Temporal things are not bad, they are just temporal. Christ promises full, rich, abundant lives. But when you spend a dollar, it is gone. Temporal things will always leave us wanting.
- B.** God created us for so much more. He has set eternity on our hearts, (Ecc. 3:11). The things found IN Christ never expire because the one who created them is eternal
- C.** Faith is the substance that creates spiritual hunger. The more we believe, the hungrier we get. Unlike physical hunger, which is a result of not eating, spiritual hunger grows the more we eat.
- D.** Psalm 34:8 NRSV