

THIRSTY AND HUNGRY

"Come, all who are thirsty, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat! Buy wine and milk without cost. Why spend your money on what is not bread and your labor on what does not satisfy? Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good, and your soul will delight in the richest of fare. Give ear and come to me; hear me so that your soul may live. I will make an everlasting covenant with you, my faithful love promised to David. See, I have made him a witness to the peoples, a leader and commander of the peoples." Isaiah 55:1-4

Lord Jesus, I am thirsty! I desperately need your drink, your food. I don't ever want to deceive myself (yet I do so often) to think that I can sustain myself. You are my sustenance. You are my nourishment. My soul drinks deep of you and I am satisfied. I will invest all my life in you!

Help me, Lord, to see where I haven't invested wisely - to see where I haven't depended on you fully. I want my every move and every breath to be more filled with you. I long to be filled up and to know you more. I just can't get enough of you! And to think that to know you doesn't require money or intelligence or anything else - simply an unyielding desire and passion to come to you and get filled up, coming with eager, open arms. Nothing I desire can fulfill. "Why spend money on what is not bread?" Nothing! Only you, Lord Jesus, can give me the desires I really long for.

Open my ears, Lord! As you say, "Listen, listen to me, and eat what is good." Lord, I'm listening. Help me to open wide my ears. Clean them out so I can hear you better! You are my heart's desire and I long for you. You call out to me to "Come to me...that your soul may live." Lord, my life is only in you. I will come to you; I will pursue you with all my heart.

You've made an everlasting covenant with David to bless the entire world through him. You have done that, bringing me new life through Jesus, who died for me and forgave my sin, the fulfiller of the promise to David. How can I ever thank you enough for your faithfulness and love? You promised your salvation ever since the fall (Genesis 3:15) and have fulfilled it in Jesus. Thank you, Jesus. I will delight in you, in the richest of fare. You do have a wedding feast prepared for your children.

Jesus promised, "Everyone who drinks this water will be thirsty again, but whoever drinks the water I give him will become a spring of water welling up to eternal life." (John 4:13-14) and "If anyone is thirsty, let him come to me and drink...whoever believes in me, as the scripture has said, streams of living water will flow from within him." (John 7:37-8)

David said, "As the deer pants for streams of water, so my soul pants for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, for the living God. Where can I go and meet with God?" (Psalm 42:1-2)

Jesus said, "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness for they will be filled." (Matthew 5:6)

Deuteronomy says, "He [God] humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna, which neither you nor your fathers had known, to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord." (8:3)

Lord, drive me to further dependence on you. Discipline me that I may learn not to depend on

myself or my possessions or even people, who can fail me, but simply depend on you.

"Blessed are those who are invited to the wedding super of the Lamb!" (Revelation 19:9) Lord, I don't need any more invitations. You have served me sufficient notice. I have come to you; I have drunk deep of your love and can never get enough. I am intoxicated with you. You are my joy, You quench my thirst and fill me with a deep hunger and thirst for more. I so long for the day to see you face to face! Come soon, Lord Jesus!

"On this mountain the Lord Almighty will prepare a feast of rich food for all peoples, a banquet of aged wine- the best of meats and the finest of wines. On this mountain he will swallow up death forever. The Sovereign Lord will wipe away the tears from all faces; he will remove the disgrace of his people from all the earth. The Lord has spoken. In that day they will say, 'Surely this is our God; we trusted in him, and he saved us. This is the Lord, we trusted in him; let us rejoice and be glad in his salvation.'" (Isaiah 25:6-9)

"The poor will eat and be satisfied; they who seek the Lord will praise him - may your hearts live forever. All the ends of the earth will remember and turn to the Lord, and all the families of the nations will bow down before him for dominion belongs to the Lord, and he rules over the nations. All the rich of the earth will feast and worship; all who go down to the dust will kneel before him. (Psalm 22:24-29)

"Taste and see that the Lord is good; blessed is the man who takes refuge in him." (Psalm 34:8)
What more can I say but "thank you, Jesus, for receiving me as your child." Thank you for feeding me with food that lasts forever. Thank you for eternal life! Thank you for dying on the cross for my sin and freeing me from my bondage. Thank you for waking up this hardened, stubborn heart that so often chooses to feast on that which can never fulfill. Purify me, O Lord! Wake me up that I may abhor all other substitutes for your drink and your bread. Do what you must do in me, discipline me as you see fit that I may learn to drink deeper of you. In Jesus' name, Amen!

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