

SOUL HUNGER: GOD'S INVITATION TO THE TABLE

Text: Isaiah 55:1-3

What are these verses about? These verses are about hungry and thirsty people but not for natural food and drink. People who hunger and thirst in their soul and are searching to satisfy their cravings. These verses describe the condition of people who are separated from God, a class of people the Bible calls lost.

Why are the lost hungry? Genesis 2:7 And the LORD God formed man of the dust of the ground, and breathed into his nostrils the breath of life; and man became a living soul. When God created man, he formed him from the dust of the ground, yet he laid there lifeless. He did not come alive until God breathed into his nostrils the breath of life. God is a Spirit and what He breathed into Adam was His Spirit. Yet the scripture says that man became a living soul – your soul is the middle ground in you that is not your body or your spirit. The soul is your mind, will, and emotions and since it's the middle ground, both your spirit and your body can feed the soul. The body relates to this world, and the spirit was made to relate to God. When Adam and Eve sinned, their spirit died, and they lost their connection with God. We as their children were born with a dead spirit because of **Romans 5:12** Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: So, the lost walk this earth hungering and thirsting for what was lost...your connection to God! Just like taking a fish out of the fishbowl and laying it on the table, it will gasp because it's been cut off from its life source. They have no ability to relate to God since He is Spirit and their spirit is dead. Still their soul hungers for Him even if they don't know it.

What do the lost do about their hunger? Isaiah 55:2 Wherefore do ye spend money for that which is not bread? and your labour for that which satisfieth not? They try hard to feed the soul with the flesh, but things of the flesh cannot satisfy the soul. The book of Ecclesiastes is the message preached by king Solomon who tried to find lasting fulfillment and satisfaction by the things of this world – pleasure and self-indulgence(wine, women and song) wealth and possessions, wisdom and accomplishment...he had more money, more grand projects, more wives, more servants, more learning, and more pleasure than anyone in the world at his time and this is what he said about it - **Ecclesiastes 1:1-2** The words of the Preacher, the son of David, king in Jerusalem. Vanity of vanities, saith the Preacher, vanity of vanities; *all is vanity. He found that the whole world would not fill the hole in his soul that was only reserved for God!* No matter what you pursue, obtain or accomplish in this life, if you are cut off from God, you will still be hungry.

What will satisfy the hungry soul? John 6:35 And Jesus said unto them, I am the bread of life: he that cometh to me shall never hunger; and he that believeth on me shall never thirst. **John 6:51** I am the living bread which came down from heaven: if any man eat of this bread, he shall live for ever: and the bread that I will give is my flesh, which I will give for the life of the world. Jesus's death, burial and resurrection made it possible for God and man to be reunited. He bore our sins on the cross and paid the debt that we owed to God and now all that is required of a sinner is for him/her to repent and believe the gospel. When they do that, God forgives all their sin and makes their spirit alive again by the renewing of the Holy Spirit. *What Jesus told the woman of Samaria at the well* **John 4:13-14** Jesus answered and said unto her, Whosoever drinketh of this water shall thirst again: But whosoever drinketh of the water that I shall give him shall never thirst; but the water that I shall give him shall be in him a well of water springing up into everlasting life. Your soul hungers for Jesus Christ and it thirsts for the Holy Spirit!

God's invitation to the table: Luke 14:16-24 is a parable about a man that made a great supper and sent out many invitations to it. People kept turning him down, so he sent his servant to disabled people, and they brought them in but there was still room. He finally sent his servant to the outskirts into the highways and hedges and told them to compel them to come in so that his house may be filled. The story is about God who made provision through Jesus Christ to fill hungry humanity. The sad truth is not that God does not want to feed them, it's that they won't come to His table.