

NO HUNGER

-Ryan Parsons-

John 6:35

Jesus said to them, "I am the bread of life; whoever comes to me shall not hunger, and whoever believes in me shall never thirst.

When a baby is hungry and screaming, the first course of action is to put a bottle in its mouth. Hunger is a powerful force from our first few moments outside the womb to our dying breath. It doesn't change much when we get older. When we are hungry, we eat.

The fact that our bodies were designed to hunger is remarkable. You can study the anatomy and physiology of hunger and catch a glimpse of the intricacy and beauty of what God created. What is even more amazing is that our souls were created to crave as well. After what? Not steak and potatoes. We were created to crave and desire something that nourishes our unique identity as image-bearers of our creator.

So, as our bodies crave food, our souls crave a filling of the emptiness within us. Instead of the many things humanity consumes in an attempt to quench our hunger, the only sustenance that will quell that longing is Jesus.

Returning to that crying newborn, one of the reasons they are so angry and temperamental is that they have been removed from their contentment in the womb. There they were directly connected to their mother, and all needs were provided. The child thrived in a warm and comfortable womb surrounded by mom, entirely in her presence. Then, suddenly, they were born into a cold, chaotic world. And there, they experience burning hunger. Likewise, they long for the presence and nourishment of their mother.

Perhaps, this is one of the things we learn in fasting. In our temporary hunger, we are reminded of the blessedness of constant connection with our creator and how when we are in his presence, our soul's clamor is completely subdued by him only and the provision he provides. What a blessed promise Jesus offers in himself. If we would only come to him, he would take away our hunger.

Lord, fill us with the bread of life. Take away our soul's hunger and thirst and help us to be satisfied by you alone.

To God be the Glory,
Ryan