

Title: SPIRITUAL HUNGER GAMES, JOHN 6:25 – 35
(Chatham, NJ; 12/01/13, AM) [Pc – Topical]

Theme: The real hunger that humans need to satisfy can only be satisfied by Jesus, the Bread of Life.

Purpose: To clarify that spiritual hunger is our most pressing need, and to encourage us to satisfy our souls before seeking physical bread.

Introduction:

1. "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness," Mt. 5:6.
2. Jesus sanctifies the longing of the soul to be united with God.
3. To desire righteousness exhibits the recognition that we need God.
4. Too often we satisfy our physical desires when this is what we need most.
5. Jesus addressed the "hunger games" we play today: substituting our longing for food with what should be a hunger and thirst for righteousness.

I. A Prevailing and Persistent Feeling of Emptiness

- A. Jesus challenges the disciples, John 6:25-35
 1. Fresh off a full meal, many seek him out, 25
 2. Jesus knows their motivation, 26
 3. Direct your energy elsewhere, 27, he tells them
 4. Manna from heaven, 31, satisfied physical hunger
 5. Jesus satisfies the spiritual hunger, 32-35
- B. Satan attacked Jesus on this very point
 1. Mt. 4:1-4, make yourself some food
 2. "Man does not live on bread alone," 4
 3. God used a desert experience to teach Israel to depend on him and that true life comes from feeding on his word
- C. Prevailing Hunger
 1. In Mt. 6 Jesus addresses the fervor that most people have for taking care of physical necessities
 2. They obsess over satisfying these
 3. In John 4:31-34, the disciples discuss physical food; Jesus opens their eyes to spiritual sustenance
 4. Full bellies, warmth, and other comforts miss the real emptiness

II. Set Your Minds on Things Above

- A. The breath of life
 1. We are made in God's image, 1:27
 2. Genesis 2:7 describes the spiritual dimension to life
 3. We believe in this without any reservation
 4. Science cannot study, quantify, or otherwise disprove it
- B. Satisfying the wrong desires
 1. Esau symbolizes those controlled by physical hunger (Gen. 25:29-34)
 2. Hebrews 12:16 – he sold his birthright for a bowl of soup
 3. The Bible calls him unholy
 4. Paul encounters people whose god is their stomach, Phil. 3:19
- C. A shift in thinking
 1. Their minds are on earthly things, Phil. 3:19

2. But our citizenship is in heaven, 3:20
3. Colossians 3:1-2, set your minds on heavenly things
4. Christ is seated in the heavenly places
5. Things that are above, not things on the earth, 3:2
6. These are the things that fill us the emptiness left by sin

Conclusion:

1. Work for food that endures to eternal life, John 6:27.
2. God's work is to believe in the one He has sent, 29.
3. Stop looking for physical satisfactions to spiritual problems, 30-34.
4. "Give us this bread," 34.
5. This is the same shallow request made by the woman at the well, John 4:15.
6. Only the Word of God can satisfy, Mt. 4:4.
7. During this time of year when food is overabundant, be satisfied with what endures to eternal life.