

²⁰ And he lifted up his eyes on his disciples, and said...

"Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied." - Luke 6:21

² And you shall remember the whole way that the LORD your God has led you these forty years in the wilderness, that he might humble you, testing you to know what was in your heart, whether you would keep his commandments or not. **³ And he humbled you and let you hunger** and fed you with manna, which you did not know, nor did your fathers know, that he might make you know that man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by every word that comes from the mouth of the LORD. **⁴** Your clothing did not wear out on you and your foot did not swell these forty years. **⁵** Know then in your heart that, as a man disciplines his son, the LORD your God disciplines you. **⁶** So you shall keep the commandments of the LORD your God by walking in his ways and by fearing him. **⁷** For the LORD your God is bringing you into a good land, a land of brooks of water, of fountains and springs, flowing out in the valleys and hills..." - **Deuteronomy 8:1-10**

Blessed Are The Hungry

4 Blessings of Hunger: *The Hunger Reveals...*

What's In Your Heart - *"...to know what was in your heart..." - Vs.2*

What's In Your Hunger - *"he make you know that man does not live by bread alone..." - Vs.4*

What's In Your Hands - *"Your clothing did not wear out on you." - Vs. 4*

What's In Your Hope - *"...God disciplines you...for the Lord is bringing you into a good land." - Vss.5-7*

The Big Idea: In Luke 6:21 Jesus says “Blessed are you who are hungry now, for you shall be satisfied.” Let’s take “hunger” as referring to those times that we don’t have what we want or think we need. Deuteronomy 8:1-10 provides one historical example of God letting his people “hunger” and how it was a blessing to them. God insists that they live in a desert for 40 years. At the end of the 40 years of scarcity, Moses tells them about the blessings to be found in that season.

Read *Deuteronomy 8:1-10* and answer these questions:

- 1) What are most people going without in during the Covid-19 crisis? What are you going without that feels especially difficult?
- 2) According to verse 2, one of the reasons God leads Israel into the wilderness (*a place of scarcity*) was to expose their hearts.
 - a) Give some examples of how times of shortage bring the worst and best out of people?
 - b) This God-imposed fast exposed what the Israelites were truly obeying. How so? How have times of difficulty exposed what was ruling your heart at the time?
- 3) According to verse 3, another reason God allows Israel to hunger is to help them get clear on the difference between *earthly* food and *heavenly* food. God made us to flourish with good things in his creation (e.g., relationships, food, sex, etc.), but even more so in having a relationship with him. Explain how we get those mixed up; and how times of scarcity help us learn the lesson that “man shall not live on bread alone.”
- 4) In verse 4 Moses reminds Israel that though they are forced to live in scarcity, nevertheless, God was faithful to provide for their needs through *means* they were not able to explain.
 - a) When the ordinary ways God provides for us are taken away unexpectedly, how do we tend to react?
 - b) How might these times be used to get us clear on God as our true source?
 - c) Israel also learned to be thankful for the bare necessities. How have you come to appreciate basic things in your life during drought times? Right now?
- 5) In verses 5-10 we are told that God was disciplining (i.e., forming, shaping, and preparing) his people for the promise land.
 - a) How so? b) What is our Hope as Christians, and how have our recent times of leanness cultivated anticipation in your heart?



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FBC Office Hours M.—Th. 8:30 am.—3:30 pm.

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