

He Hath Filled the Hungry

Sunday, June 12th, 1988

Luke 1:53

“He hath filled the hungry with good things; and the rich he hath sent empty away.”

The main thoughts of this message that I will be bringing today will be taken from the First Chapter of Luke. If you care to follow along in your Bible, you may open it to the Book of Luke Chapter One. This is the subject: “HE HATH FILLED THE HUNGRY.”

To lay a foundation for this message, I want to go back and make a few comments. You stay with me. I am going to build up to something here that is very important. Our Lord said in Matthew 11, *“Take My yoke upon you and learn of Me.”* Again, He said in John 17, *“Eternal life is to know the only true God and Jesus Christ whom He hath sent.”*

Eternal life is to know God. Eternal life is to know His wisdom, His power, His will, His ways and His character. How does one know God? John said, *“And we know that the Son of God is come, and hath given us an understanding, that we may know him that is true, and we are in him that is true, even in his Son Jesus Christ. This is the true God, and eternal life.”*

You see; *“No man knoweth the Father, but the Son, and He to whom the Son will reveal Him.”* So, Christ reveals the Father. Eternal life is wrapped up in knowing God. Not only is there eternal life but there is spiritual freedom and spiritual liberty from the bondage of the curse of the law. There is spiritual freedom and spiritual liberty from the traditions of religion and from the customs of religion. Spiritual freedom and spiritual liberty is to know God.

“Ye shall know the truth and the truth shall set you free. The truth shall make you free. If the Son shall make you free, you shall be free indeed.” Who is this Son? It is Christ. Who is this Truth that sets men free? It is Christ Jesus the Lord.

Another thing in knowing God and having some understanding of the character and will of God is to have love, genuine love. Genuine love is born of knowing God. Did you know that? The Scripture says, *“He that loveth not, knoweth not God, because God is love.”*

How does man know love? To know God is to know love. How does a man have love? He knows God. *“The love of God is shed abroad in our hearts by the Holy Spirit.”* This is the reason so many religionists are neither lovely, nor loving. They do not know God.

“He that dwelleth in God dwelleth in love. He that dwelleth in love dwelleth in God. God is love.” Genuine love is to know God. Genuine love is not to make a profession of religion, but it is to know God.

Then, there is the assurance of salvation. It too, comes from the knowledge of God. Paul said, *“I know whom I have believed, and therefore I am persuaded that He is able to keep that which I committed to Him against that day.”* I know Him and therefore I am confident. I know Him and therefore I am persuaded that I have nothing to worry about. I am secure in Him because I know Him.

Do you see the importance of knowing God? Eternal life is to know God. Genuine love is to know God. Spiritual liberty is to know God. Any confidence or peace of heart and assurance of mind is to know God. That is the reason that Paul cried in Philippians 3: *“O that I may know Him and the power of His resurrection. O that I may win Christ and be found in Him.”* I am not found in the church, but in Christ. I am not found in the doctrine, but in Christ.

I want you to go back to the text to Luke 1. I want you to hear from one who knew God, who really knew God, who really knew something of this assurance, love, liberty, joy, and this life.

This is one who at that very time, this person who is speaking here in Luke 1, was called *“Blessed among women.”* She was *“Highly favored of God.”* We are talking about Mary. *“She was highly favored of God and blessed among women.”* She wasn't blessed above women, but was blessed among women.

At that very time that she spoke these words, bore in her body that *“Holy Thing.”* That is what God called it. *“That Holy Thing was conceived by the Spirit of God, the Son of God.”* Listen to Mary as she declares the character, and the glory of the God whom she knew. This was the God who had revealed Himself to her.

Beginning at Luke 1:46, would you turn over there. Listen to this, She said in Luke 1:46; *“My soul doth magnify the Lord. My spirit hath rejoiced in God my Savior.”* First of all, God is her Saviour. Yes, even Mary the sinner, needed a Saviour. Mary is not a priest or an intercessor. Mary is a sinner saved by the grace of God. She calls Him, *“Her Saviour.”* She said, *“My soul doth rejoice in God my Saviour.”*

“He is a Just God and He is a Saviour.” He is God, a Just, Holy and Righteous God who changes not. Yet, in the giving of His Son, in the coming of the Lord Jesus, and the sacrifice of the Son of God, in the perfect obedience of Christ in the flesh, God becomes

my Saviour. My God is my Saviour. My God is my Father. My God is my Redeemer. That is what she is saying here. She is saying that *“He is a merciful, gracious Redeemer.”*

Notice in verse 49, she says this; *“He that is Mighty, (Almighty), hath done great things to me.”* She said, “He’s not only God my Saviour, but He is God my Sovereign.” Is your
God Sovereign?
“Is anything too hard for God?” The Scripture says, *“The Lord God Omnipotent reigneth.”* I like that!

God says, *“My arm is not short that I cannot save. My ear is not heavy that I cannot hear. Can I not do with My own what I will? He reigns in the armies of heaven and among the inhabitants of the earth and giveth it to whomsoever He will. He worketh all things after the council of His own will.”*

I get so weary of hearing preachers talking about a god who wants to do something and can’t. They say that He is trying to do this and that and is not able. That is not God! Mary said, “God my Saviour is God my Sovereign. *He that is Mighty hath done great things.*”

In verse 49, she says this about Him; “For Holy is His name.” Do you see the last line in verse 49? *“Holy is His name.”* God is my Saviour who is my Sovereign, and God is my Righteousness. What is His name? What is the Lord’s name? What is the Lord’s chief attribute? Do you know what the Lord’s chief attribute is? If I were to ask you today to sum up the character of God in one word, what would you say?

You know what you ought to say, you ought to say; *“Holy.”* It says here, *“Holy is His name. Holy and Reverend is His name. God is Holy.”* When the high priest went into the Holy of Holies, he had on his miter, *“Holiness to the Lord.”* This is His Holy Word. The angels are His Holy angels. The tabernacle is the Holy of Holies.

Heaven is a holy place. His people are a holy people. *“God is Holy.”* When Isaiah saw the Lord, what were the seraphims crying? They were crying, *“Holy, Holy, Holy, God is Holy.”* That is His chief attribute.

In His holiness, He has provided holiness for me. His holiness demands a holiness of me and a righteousness, which I do not have and cannot produce. The righteousness that God demands and the holiness that God requires is a perfect holiness, which can only be provided by a perfect Man. Jesus Christ the Lord is that perfect Man. He is the God-Man. He is my Saviour, He is my Sovereign, and He is my Righteousness.

Read verse 50, *“And His mercy is on them that fear Him from generation to generation.”* This God who is sovereign, thank God, is also merciful. His mercy is sovereign mercy. Moses said, *“Show me your glory.”*

God said, *“My glory is My goodness and I will cause My goodness to pass before you and I will be merciful. I will be merciful to whom I will be merciful. I will be gracious to whom I will be gracious.”* He is merciful and it is sovereign mercy. Our God is merciful. *“God is plenteous in mercy.”* There is plenty of mercy. *“He delights to show mercy.”* Our God is merciful.

Now, look at verse 52: This God, my Saviour who is the Almighty Sovereign, who is Holy and merciful, He is gracious to the guilty. This is the good news. The gospel is called, *“The good news and glad tidings.”* This is the good news that God is gracious to people like me and you. We are needy creatures, sinful men, and women, and God is gracious to the guilty. God is merciful to those in need. But, God will bring down the proud and the mighty. Now, that is God.

You see, my friends, God’s providence is like a wheel, that which is at the top moves slowly, but it moves. That which is at the top will one day be at the bottom. That which is at the bottom will one day be at the top. This is what He says here, *“He hath put down the mighty from their proud seats, and He has exalted them of low degree.”* That is God!

As Mary describes the Lord God, she says; *“My soul rejoices in God my Saviour, my Sovereign, my Almighty, the Holy God, my Righteousness.”* He is the merciful God who is gracious to the guilty. She is talking about a God who says here, that *“He will put down the mighty and the proud and He will lift up and exalt those of low degree.”*

Listen to Luke 6:20-21, 24-25: I want to read this to you. Our Lord Jesus spoke to His disciples and He said, *“Blessed are the poor in spirit for yours is the kingdom of God. Blessed are ye that hunger now; ye shall be filled. Blessed are you that weep now, you shall laugh, but woe unto you that are rich; you have received your consolation. Woe unto you that are full, you shall hunger. Woe unto you that laugh now, you are going to weep.”* The Master said that.

That is what Mary is saying, *“He puts down the mighty and exalts those of low degree.”* Listen to First Samuel 2:7 and 8, Hannah is speaking here, *“The Lord maketh poor, the Lord maketh rich. The Lord bringeth low and the Lord lifteth up. The Lord raiseth up*

the poor out of the dust and lifteth up the beggar from the dunghill to set them among princes.”

I have been preaching a lot of years, and it wasn't long ago that I saw this passage of Scripture, Isaiah 65:13 says, *“Behold My servant shall eat, but you shall be hungry. Behold My servant shall drink but you shall be thirsty. Behold My servant shall rejoice, but you shall be ashamed. Behold My servants shall sing for joy of heart, but you shall cry for sorrow of heart. He bringeth down the mighty and exalteth them of low degree.”*

First Corinthians says, *“That which the world calls wisdom will prove to be folly.”* That means foolishness. That which the world now calls foolishness, is such as the preaching of the cross, will prove to be the very power and wisdom of God to those who believe.

Note the text in the next verse, verse 53: This Great God, our Saviour, our Sovereign, the Holy God, and our Righteousness who is merciful and gracious, the Scripture says; *“He hath filled the hungry with good things.”* This is Mary speaking. She is talking about God.

Who is this God? This is the Living God. She is talking about the Living God, the only true God, whom to know is to have eternal life, and who to know is to have freedom and peace. She says, *“This God hath filled the hungry with good things.”* Why does she use the word, *“hungry?”* I will tell you why; it goes right back to the other verse, *“He exalts those of low degree,”* (the hungry).

Did you know that the hungry are the poorest of the poor? There is nobody as poor as a man who is hungry. When a man is homeless, he is poor, but he still may be able to buy food even if he is homeless. When a man is homeless and broke, he is poor, but he still may have some food to eat or have a neighbor that will give him something.

But, when you say a man is hungry, genuinely hungry, you are saying that he is has nothing and he has no one. He has no relief. That man is poor. That describes a true sinner who comes to Christ for mercy. He is poor. *“Blessed are the poor in spirit for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.”*

That's right! *“Blessed are they that hunger and thirst.”* They are poor for righteousness and they will be filled. The man who is poor spiritually has nothing, knows nothing, and can do nothing. His soul craves that which only Christ can give. He fills the hungry man.

I will tell you something else about a hungry man, why does she use the word “*hungry*?” The hungry feel their poverty in a way that no one else feels it. The man without a home feels his poverty, but not like a hungry man. The fellow that has no money feels his poverty, but not like a hungry man. The hungry man feels his poverty like no one else, in a way that he can’t forget. It is never away from him. Never!

The man who has a few clothes will forget his problems when the sun shines and he will be comfortable. He will be warm when the sun is shining. The man who sleeps under the railroad-bridge, you say, “Well, boy, he is poor.” No, not too much; he sleeps as well as anyone once he gets to sleep. It may be on a park bench, railroad bridge or wherever.

But, the man who is hungry has a constant, internal awareness of his need that he cannot deny and he cannot forget. He will never be away from it. He is hungry! So, the true sinner who is hungry, my Lord will fill him. He will fill him because he has poverty and a hunger that finds no peace, no joy, and no relief until Christ fills him.

Then, the hungry, why does she use the word “*hungry*?” The Lord, the sovereign God, the righteous God, the saving God will fill the hungry. The hungry will be satisfied with nothing (absolutely nothing!), but bread. Don’t rattle money, jewelry or clothes in front of him. He is hungry! He wants bread.

Suppose you have a man who is actually hungry. You bring him into the beautiful dining hall. It is beautiful, the finest architect has designed it, and an interior decorator has decorated it. You have this table with the finest linen and set with the best, plates, saucers, glasses, cups, knives, forks, spoons, flowers, and trimming. But there is no food, there is no bread. He is not satisfied. You can’t do him any good. He is as miserable sitting in that lavishly furnished dining hall, as he was outside.

So, the church with all of its finery, fashion, beauty, stained-glass windows, soft carpets, and air-conditioning and with all its fine lavish trimmings will not do a sinner any good, especially a hungry sinner. He wants bread.

Rattle the dishes, rattle the cups and saucers, rattle the spoons, and make all sorts of noise. Have some singing; a little entertainment and maybe this will help him. No! That will not help him; he is hungry. He won’t be satisfied with noise and the rattling of dishes and these things. He wants bread. He is hungry.

The children’s bread, what is it? The children’s bread is the Word of God. Someone says, “Two things ought to always be on the table.” When we go to church, it doesn’t matter if it is a fine dining hall, or an ordinary wooden building. It doesn’t matter

whether there is a tablecloth on the table or not. It doesn't matter if you have the finest china or glassware. You have to have bread and water.

My friend; that is the Gospel of Christ in the power of God's Spirit preached from His blessed Word. That will do a hungry sinner good. He will be so grateful, so thankful, and so satisfied because he feeds on the Word of God.

I will tell you a hungry man will be pretty persistent too. Our Lord talks about that in Luke 11 and He calls it importunity. Do you remember the story when the fellow came over to his friend's house late at night and he knocked on the door? His friend called from the upstairs window and said, "What do you want?" He said, "We are hungry over at the house; we have company and we have no bread. I have to have something to eat." The man said, "I'm already in bed; go your way; see me tomorrow." He said, "Wait a minute; I am hungry."

He keeps knocking. Our Lord said, "If he won't come down and give him bread because he is his friend, he will do it because of his importunity, (his persistence). I'm saying this, you let a hungry sinner, a genuinely hungry sinner with guilt of sin, a hunger of soul, and the fear of God and let him really experience his need, his emptiness, his guilt, and his need of Christ, and he will continue to seek the Lord until He finds him.

He will continue to seek the Word, the Word of God. He will study the Word of God. He will hunger, until he is filled. Notice this, it says; "*He filleth the hungry.*" That is what she is saying. This Lord is the One who fills the hungry. Who does? It is Christ.

Now, you follow along in this message, but you understand God, who speaks through His servant. It is God who is speaking through His Word and God who speaks through His servant. When God spoke to Saul of Tarsus, broke him down on the road to Damascus, and sent him to the street, called Straight, what did God do next?

He sent him a preacher, a truthful, God-honoring, Christ-loving, Gospel preacher. Ananias came and told Saul of Tarsus what God wanted him to hear. Yes, we preach the Word to you but it is God. Christ fills the hungry. I pray that you never be comforted, until Christ comforts you.

All this hand raising, walking the aisle, signing pledge cards, going into inquiry rooms and talking to people that don't know what they are talking about, that is not going to help you. You need to get in touch with Him, the Living God. You need to read His Word, hear His Gospel and don't consult with a man. Don't consult with flesh and blood.

They can't take you any higher than what they have climbed. They can't give you what they have. I can't give you anything from my own heart. God can give you life. God can give you light. God can give you truth. God can give you peace. God can give you comfort. Nobody else can.

We always want to run and to talk to somebody. "Help me, give me some assurance." No man can do that! I hope that you will never be comforted, until Christ comforts you. "*He fills the hungry.*" I'm just a messenger; I'm not a saviour.

Somebody said to me one time, "Are you still saving sinners?" I've never saved a sinner. I didn't die on the cross. I'm not God; I can't save myself, you, or anybody else. I'm just telling you who He is. I'm telling you to look to Christ. Like John the Baptist, "*Behold the Lamb of God.*" Don't look to me. Don't look to the water, to the Lord's Table, or to a preacher. Don't write for my books to save your soul; call on God. I pray that you will never find peace until Christ gives you peace. Christ is our peace.

These false prophets cry, "*Peace when there is no peace.*" I pray, never, suppose that you are clean until you have been washed in the blood of the Lamb. I don't care how many churches you have joined, or how many times you have been baptized. Salvation is in the blood of Christ. Cleansing is in the blood of Christ. The Atonement is in the blood of Christ. I hope you are never comforted, until He comforts you.

I hope no one ever speaks peace to your heart, until He speaks peace to your heart. I hope no one ever says that you are saved and that you are on your way to heaven, until He tells you that you are saved. Do business with God.

I'm so weary of all this aisle walking, hand shaking, card signing, and pledge making. This is all ridiculous! Salvation is not down here; it is in Christ. It is a living, vital, personal union and knowledge of the Living God.

It doesn't matter whether you are in a church, or in a field or out in a creek. It doesn't matter if you are in a home, or if you are out in the street, on your job, or wherever you are; you need to walk with the Redeemer. You don't need a preacher to hold you up. He fills!

Our Lord leaves nothing empty and undone. He meets every need. He fills us full. He gives us all we need. "*In Him dwelleth all the fullness of the Godhead bodily and you are complete in Him.*" He is the fountain that fills you full.

He fills the hungry with good things. What are the good things? The good things are not a new car; that will wear out. It is not a new house; that will burn down. It is not just health in these old bones; it is health of the soul. *“He gives Wisdom, Righteousness, Sanctification, and Redemption.”*

They are all in Him and He fills the hungry. Have you ever been hungry? He will fill you with good things. Go to Him!