

“Hungry”

Sermon for March 10, 2019

1st Sunday in Lent-Deuteronomy 26:1-11, Luke 4:1-4

Sermon Text: Deuteronomy 8:3 NIV

3 He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna,... to teach you that man does not live on bread alone but on every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.

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Hunger: Hunger is the feeling of weakness or discomfort that you get when you need something to eat. Hunger is the body's signal that levels of blood sugar are too low. uncountable noun. Hunger is a severe lack of food which causes suffering or death. In 1951 when he was the pastor of the Fellowship of All Peoples in San Francisco, California, Dr. Howard Thurmond published a book of devotions for those he called “Apostles of Sensitiveness.” It was a series of meditations that he wrote over a period of years for the church, which he entitled “Deep Is the Hunger.” Dr Thurmond, who would go on to serve

as a mentor for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., organized the book in four sections:

A Sense of History

A Sense of Self

A Sense of Presence for the Quiet Time

He understood the oppression of spirit that we all labor under who live in such a rich, materially-focused reality. He also quickly grasped the need to develop tools for negotiating and separating from that reality less the hunger for it destroys us.

In the ancient credo of Israel that we find in chapter 26 of Deuteronomy, we note that after having brought the offering of the first fruit of the land, each ancient Israelite was to leave their offering, but they were not finished.

The only way they could conquer the hungers of history, of self, of ontological being and to achieve peace or inner silence from that hunger, the hunger of what they had left at the altar, was to recite the ancient Words of God's deliverance. It is through

our consuming the Words of God alone, that our hungers can be silenced.

Living the normal Christian life, means living a life of holiness, the life of God's Nazirite, God's life and light bringers. We have received the ability to demonstrate the "shim shun" radiance, but like Samson, we must silence the recurring hunger for the fake glimmer around us.

Jesus was tempted, because he had hunger. Our hungers distract us. Jesus cured his own hunger, and we can cure ours, by immersing ourselves this Lenten Season in God's Word.

5bc "My father was a wandering Aramean, and he went down into Egypt with a few people and lived there and became a great nation, powerful and numerous. 6 But the Egyptians mistreated us and made us suffer, subjecting us to harsh labor. 7 Then we cried out to the Lord, ... and the Lord heard our voice and saw our misery, toil and oppression. 8 So the Lord brought us out of Egypt with a mighty hand and an outstretched arm, ... with signs and wonders.

This is always the first step. We come to God with our concerns. Lord, help me. Lord heal me. Lord instruct me. Lord guide me. Lord get me out of this. But where are our joys? Where is our testimony? Where is the story we tell in gratitude of God's mighty deliverance, God's great mercy, and God's kindness in our lives? When our hunger is truly satisfied, we will proclaim our deliverance. Amen.