

The Beatitudes

“Blessed are you who hungry now, for you will be filled.” Luke chapter 6 verse 21

Hunger is a big issue in our world. On the one hand we have severe famine and malnourishment in various parts of the world, and even food poverty in our so called civilised western nations, with parents missing meals in order to feed their children, elderly people having to choose between eating and heating, and more and more people resorting to food banks.

On the other hand, we have a big problem in our society today with obesity and the health problems it brings, while our tv schedules are packed with cookery programmes, many of which present food as an art form, taking engagement with food far beyond the need to eat to survive into the realms of the subtleties of taste and texture. And all the time huge amounts of food are wasted through over production. There is enough food in the world to feed everybody, but no profit in distributing it equally.

Again, this speaks of spiritual hunger. Our obsession with food goes beyond a simple requirement to eat. We are trying to fill another, deeper hunger, and the excess suggests that something other than food is required to do that. If it is an eternal, spiritual need, then only the spiritual will satisfy it.

Today, Jesus is promising that those who recognise their spiritual hunger and their need for God will find what they are looking for in relationship with him.

But further on he contrasts these with others who “are now full” are searingly described in Paul's letter to the Philippians; “Their end is destruction; their god is their stomach.....They are focussed on earthly things.”

Prayer

Father, we live in a material world in which we need to give attention to the things we need to do to live and thrive physically. But we see that this earthly life is not forever, and we are aware of a deeper need within us that nothing of this world will satisfy. Please help us to fully address the need we have for spiritual nourishment, so that we will thrive spiritually and be prepared for the life that follows this one. In Jesus' name, amen.

All these devotionals can be found on our website inghamitechurch.org on the 'Resources' page. Click on the link to go there.