

WE'RE HUNGRY

“Give us this day our daily bread” (Matthew 6:11; Luke 11:3)

OBSERVATIONS

“Give us this day our daily bread” is the first phrase of the Lord’s Prayer where we are invited to pray for our human needs. There are three key words in the prayer.

Bread: This was a staple food in the largely agricultural world of Jesus’ time (today the word “rice” could also be used). The request for bread shows that God cares for our bodies. Jesus certainly did – the feeding of the 5000 occurs in all four gospels. Note also the importance of taking care of the body in passages like James 2:14-17 and Matthew 25:31-46.

Daily: This would remind Jesus’ hearers of how God fed the Hebrews in the wilderness for forty years (Exodus 16). God provided food each day in the form of a bread-like substance called manna. The people were forbidden to hoard it – when they did, it spoiled and filled with maggots (Ex 16:20). In the same way Jesus modeled and encouraged a daily dependence on God. The less cluttered and complicated we make our lives, the greater will be our contentment (Matthew 6:19-21; 33-34).

Our: This is a call to pray not only for our needs, but others as well. Jesus’ harshest warnings were aimed at people who were negligent in caring for others. The rich man in Luke 16:19-31 was sent to hell not because of what he did, but because he did not respond to Lazarus begging at his doorstep. For statistics on world hunger, go to: <http://www.worldhunger.org/2015-world-hunger-and-poverty-facts-and-statistics/>

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

1. Jesus invites us to take care of – and pray for - our bodily needs. Do you find it easy or difficult to pray for (and take care of) your body? Why?
2. What forms of hunger do you notice in your community, our city, and the world?
3. Simple living is a way to practice a “daily” dependence on God. How might you declutter or streamline your life in order to experience more contentment?

MOVING FORWARD

If you are not doing so already, consider supporting an organization or agency that addresses issues of poverty and hunger. If you are not doing so already, how might you become personally involved in helping people in need?