

**Hungering for God**  
**Ordering Our Appetite for Food**  
**Genesis 1:27-29, Leviticus 23:22, Isaiah 55:1-7, John 4:1-15, 31-34**  
**Sermon Outline**

**Introduction:** How does God want us to think about and relate to food? (i) We should receive it as his good gift, (ii) we should share it, and (iii) we should allow our need for it to point us to God.

**I) Receiving food as God's good gift**

*Genesis 1.29: Behold I have given...every plant...all the earth...every tree*

*1 Tim 6, 17: Richly providing us with everything to enjoy...*

*Isaiah 55.2: ...delight yourselves in rich food*

**A) Enjoy it**

Scrooge's crimes

More than a necessity

**B) Don't let it drive you**

To say it is God's gift is not to say it is God

Some ways that food drives us

**II) Sharing our food**

**A) God's plan for redistribution in a broken world**

*1 Tim 6.17, 18: As for the rich...they are to do good*

*Leviticus 23.22: And when you reap the harvest...you shall not reap ...right up to the edge*

**B) Making a plan**

**III) Allow food to point you to God**

**A) Two things about food**

*John 4.13: Everyone who drinks of this water will be thirsty again*

*Isaiah 55.2: Why do you spend... your labor on that which does not satisfy?*

*1 Tim 6.17: ...the uncertainty of riches*

**B) God is desperately generous**

*Isaiah 55: Come...come...come....*

*...Delight yourselves in rich food*

*John 4.14: ...a spring of water welling up to eternal life*

The God who thirsted among us

## Questions for Reflection this Week

- 1) Do you suffer from food and feasting guilt? Why? Why not?
- 2) Food is a good gift from God, but it is not God. We must not permit it to drive our lives. How does food, at least on occasion, drive your life? Think broadly—of gourmet eating, of the drive to eat too much or too little? How do food and its consumption influence your attitudes toward other people? How do food and its consumption influence the lives of your children and friends?
- 3) Read over Genesis 1:26 and 1 Timothy 6:17B. If God is so generous with food, why are so many people in our world hungry?
- 4) Read Leviticus 23:22. How by that law does God build redistribution of food into Israel's life? How might you build food redistribution into the structure of your life?
- 5) Reflect on the following statement in the light of John 4:13 and Isaiah 55:2: "Two things are true about food: (a) We need it all the time and (b) it never permanently satisfies us. God could have made us differently, but he chose to make us this way because he wanted to build into us a constant and living longing for something more than we can find in this world—a constant and living longing for him."
- 6) Note the desperation in the tone of Isaiah 55:1-7, noting that God is speaking in these words. What drives the Lord's desperation?
- 7) How does Jesus explain going without lunch to speak to a lonely, adulterous, Samaritan woman (John 4:32, 34)? What does this tell you about him? What does it tell you about God? How does it picture the longing in Isaiah 55? Would he have gone without lunch for you?
- 8) Jesus goes without water a second time in John's Gospel (John 19:28-30). How does his thirst the second time relate to the story in John 4? Spend some time thanking Christ for hungering and thirsting for you.