

Hunger: Physical and Spiritual

Matthew 25:35

Emphasis: To teach men that Jesus expects them to focus on all types of hunger: physical and spiritual.

Teaching: In the parable of the Sheep and the Goats, Jesus challenges listeners to care for the 'least of these'. In doing so, we are focusing on Him. Helping people in their need is the call of all Christian men.

In America, hunger may seem far away. We are grateful to live in a nation that is well-fed. Yet hunger is at our doorstep. Men of God are called to feed hungry people and give water to thirsty people as much as they are to build churches and repair homes.

Ron Thomas was homeless and in need. In an instant, his life changed when, while sitting on a park bench, a little girl delivered a simple message to him: Jesus Loves You. "I knew without a shadow of a doubt, this was my way out: through the Lord Jesus Christ," said Thomas.

Compelled by the power of Christ, Thomas cleaned up his life, got off the streets, and left Los Angeles for a fresh start. But the same power of Christ soon sent him right back to Skid Row - this time to plant and lead Set Free Church in the heart of the homeless population. Set Free Church is part of the Los Angeles Baptist Association and the California Southern Baptist Convention. The church seeks to meet the hunger needs of people first. Thomas explains; "They need to eat, they need to be warm, but I think with that, if we really minister to the hearts and minds of the people, that's where we see change."

Most Baptist men have little contact with hungry people. Sometimes our opinions of hungry people reflect our discomfort rather than our faith. Every Baptist man can be involved in caring for hungry people. With the U.S. economy continuing to struggle, people who have never had a hunger related need may now have such a need.

Hunger ministries across the U.S. saw 33,000 professions of faith through this ministry. Many of these ministries are supported by the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund. Worldwide \$1.00 = 5 meals.

Notes

Mission Application:

- Are there 'out of work' people in your church who may need some help with basic food and other necessities during their time of struggle?
- Are there senior adults on fixed incomes who have trouble stretching their dollars to feed their families and themselves?
- Learn about hunger ministries near your church. Take the boys of your church (Royal Ambassadors) to help feed at a soup kitchen in your community. Doing this will open the eyes of these boys and their leaders.
- Go to the North American Mission Board web site to see videos and find information about hunger in the U.S. <http://www.namb.net/hunger/>
- Lead your church to get involved with World Hunger by taking a special offering for the Southern Baptist World Hunger Fund.

Notes

