

Hidden Hunger

#0196

Study Given by W. D. Frazee—February 7, 1970

My subject tonight is "Hidden Hunger" or what youth really want. Are you hungry? Some are hungry and know it. Some are hungry and don't know it. I want to study with you tonight about a hidden hunger that is affecting and afflicting multitudes, especially of the young people.

We have many illustrations in physical life. The laws of physiology and the law of spiritual life are similar. We see many children and young people who seem to be hungry for candy and soda pop and ice cream and cake, and all sorts of these sweet things. And we wonder why it is that some seem to have such an inordinate craving. They can't get enough. A nutritionist would tell them that they're already eating far too much. It's making holes in their teeth and doing a lot of other damage—this excessive amount of sweets.

What's the problem? May I tell you what the problem is in many cases? There is a hidden hunger. What they're really craving for, and don't know it, is the minerals and vitamins and the sweets that are found in natural fruits. If a child is brought up to enjoy apples and oranges and bananas and dates and raisins and figs and prunes and pears and strawberries and blackberries, I say if a child is brought up to enjoy those natural sweets, some of these substitutes will seem hardly satisfying.

Which do you enjoy the most? What's your idea of a special treat? One of these commercial confections from town, or a delicious fruit salad made from nature's sweets?

I've said that to say this: that just as in the body there are hidden hungers; where the body is, as it were, crying out for those minerals and vitamins which are missing from the commercially refined foods, and yet that hunger is not understood, not interpreted right, so in the spiritual. This is the most restless, dissatisfied age that the world ever saw, my friends. There are so many riots, so many marches, and so much discontent. What is the real reason? What is the hidden hunger?

This is what I want to show tonight so that all who wish to be satisfied can find the answer. It's in God's book. Jeremiah 6:14–19. And may I tell you before we read the text? The answer is very simple. Don't expect something complicated. Also, it's an answer that many people will say, "Oh, my. That's the last thing we would want." May I tell you that those who are used to the artificial diets of this world might see little that is attractive in the simple Garden of Eden dietetic program?

"They have healed also the hurt of the daughter of my people slightly, saying, Peace, peace; when there is no peace. Were they ashamed when they had committed

abomination? nay, they were not at all ashamed, neither could they blush: therefore they shall fall among them that fall: at the time that I visit them they shall be cast down, saith the LORD. Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls. But they said, We will not walk therein. Also I set watchmen over you, saying, Hearken to the sound of the trumpet. But they said, We will not hearken. Therefore hear, ye nations, and know, O congregation, what is among them. Hear, O earth: behold, I will bring evil upon this people, even the fruit of their thoughts, because they have not hearkened unto my words, nor to my law, but rejected it” Jeremiah 6:14–19.

Here God’s holy law, spoken amid the thunder of Sinai and written by His own finger on the imperishable stone; here we have the way of peace and rest and joy and satisfaction.

Oh, somebody says, “That’s old.” That’s right. That’s what this says—“Ask for the old paths.” I bring you no modern formula to take the place of these Ten Commandments. Not a bit of it, my friends. The real answer is found in a return to that which is as old as eternity, as old as God.

“Ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls” Jeremiah 6:16.

The divine recipe is:

“...he that keeps the law, happy is he” Proverbs 29:18.

Those who riot in the streets and those who march in protest, and take possession of the offices and universities, they do not understand this. Do you know why? The biggest reason is that their parents before them did not understand it. Those who sowed the wind are reaping the whirlwind, and the hurricane is just ahead of us. Things are not going to get better, they’re going to get worse. We have seen only a little bit of the terror and confusion, the riot and crime, the war, the bloodshed and strife—racial, political, class against class, nation against nation all over the world until finally this planet is deluged with blood. This is the Armageddon that’s ahead of us.

But ah, my friends, in the midst of all earth’s strife and commotion, and confusion, and riot, and revolution, there will be a group of people who have peace in their hearts. They’re not marching with the rioters; they’re not thinking it smart to campaign on this issue and that one and the other one. Like Enoch, they’re finding their peace in the things of nature. Like Enoch, they’re bringing to the Sodoms of our time, the message of hope and peace and reconciliation which involves returning to the law of God through the grace of Jesus Christ. There is no other message.

And my friends, I tell you in Christ’s name, it does not need to be dressed up in modern garments. It does not need to be phrased in the language of riot and

revolution and unrest and rebellion. I make no apology for this, my friends. I tell you, young and old, there is no new way to Heaven, and there is no new way to solve the problems of this world. The issue is clear. It is obedience to God's law or rebellion.

What I'm anxious to study with you tonight is not so much the righteousness of the law as it is the fact that only in obedience to law will we find the answer to the hidden hunger. Do you know what children and youth long for—90 percent of them don't know it? But what they really long for is somebody to lead them and tell them what is correct and right. Why are they that way? Because God made them that way. He made our stomachs to hunger for food, and nothing but food can satisfy these stomachs of ours. He made our lungs to hunger for air, and nothing but air will satisfy. He made our hearts to long for love—love expressed by parents and teachers and other appointed, delegated representatives of God's government, love expressed by those leaders in telling us what to do.

I could stop every few sentences and tell you that I know that what I'm saying is woefully out of step with the times. I'm well aware of that. And, my friends, when I see the multitudes marching, marching, marching toward destruction. Oh, I'm glad that we *can* be out of step with these times. I see a pilgrim group traveling another way; it's an upward way, it's a narrow way, it's a rough way, but it leads to the pearly gates.

“Blessed are the undefiled in the way, who walk in
the law of the LORD” Psalm 119:1.

Yes, he that keepeth the law, happy is he.

One of the great reasons that so few children and youth know that this is what they want is that very few children and youth today have parents that have ever given them this kind of leadership. So this message tonight is a challenge to parents as well as to children; it's a challenge to the older as well as the younger. Brothers and sisters, let's come to the feet of Jesus tonight and listen while He talks to us about how to be happy, and how to be satisfied. What do you say?

The words we've read from the ancient prophet Jeremiah are echoed in the invitation of the Savior in Matthew:

“Come unto Me, all ye that labour and are heavy laden, and I
will give you rest...”

Satisfaction and contentment—the thing you want, the thing you need.

“...Take My yoke upon you, and learn of Me; for I am meek
and lowly in heart: and ye shall find rest unto your souls”
Matthew 11:28.

Here is the answer to the hidden hunger. That yoke that Jesus talks about is the law of God. This is the yoke—this is the harness that He bids us to enter in with Him and be yoked up, harnessed up for service.

Millions of young people today are searching for a cause. Jesus invites us, young people and older ones, to join with Him in the greatest cause in the universe, finishing His work in the world which will put an end to war, strife, poverty, race injustice and every other thing that people are campaigning about that's worth even a thought. The answer is one, it is the coming of Jesus Christ, but it waits for the development of a people who have accepted His law fully and have it written in their hearts. Oh, to love this law.

Take the first precept of the second table; will you repeat it with me?

"Honor thy father and thy mother: that thy days may be
long upon the land which the Lord thy God giveth thee"
Exodus 20:12.

I suggest to you that this commandment is for children, no matter how long their parents live. If you're gray-headed and your father and mother are white-haired, the Fifth Commandment is still for you, the First Commandment with promise. This doesn't say to do it for the first 16 years, much less quit it at 12 or 14. It doesn't even say when you're old enough to vote, cancel out the Fifth Commandment. No, and why not? Because, I repeat, in every human heart, there is a longing to show our love through *responding* to leadership. In every human heart, there is a hunger to be told what to do.

Somebody says, "I've never been hungry then." You just didn't know it. You may have been trying and testing this and that thing, but you'll never be satisfied until you get anchored in God and those that God has put you with to lead you. You never will. And if you didn't learn it when you were three, if you didn't learn it when you were 10, if you didn't learn it when you were 13, if you didn't learn it when you were 17, if you didn't learn it when you were 25, let's learn it now. Because you'll be hungry until you do—a hunger in our souls.

You see, there's a security that comes to the little child whose father or mother says, "Johnny, Mary, you do this," and mean it and stick with it—that's security. But the little child who is told: "Mother doesn't want you to do this, and if you do, something will happen" and then when the child disobeys and sometimes something happens, and sometimes it doesn't happen at all—that is insecurity. This is what is foundational in much of the restlessness today. It dates right back to the first years of life, years of infancy. And dear ones in your teens and twenties, brought up perhaps in a permissive atmosphere—you are hungry. You're hungry to find somewhere, sometime, that which you missed in infancy and the childhood years—a fixed, settled standard of right when two and two are always four and never three and a half, and certainly never seven or eight. Two and two are four.

"Thus saith the LORD, Stand ye in the ways, and see, and
ask for the old paths, where is the good way, and walk
therein, and ye shall find rest for your souls..."
Jeremiah 6:16.

Oh, I hope that the Holy Spirit will dig deeper into our hearts tonight than ever before on this matter.

Concerning those who wait for the Master it is written:

“Here is the patience of the saints: here are they that keep the commandments of God, and the faith of Jesus”
Revelation 14:12.

Look at this statement from *Child Guidance*:

“In some families the wishes of the child are law. Everything he desires is given him. Everything he dislikes he is encouraged to dislike. These indulgences are supposed to make the child happy, but it is these very things that make him restless, discontented, and satisfied with nothing”
Child Guidance, page 272.

Do you see what I mean? The hidden hunger. Did you ever see some little prince down there on the floor kicking his heels and clenching his fists and crying out, and father, mother, and uncle, grandpa, grandma all trying to think of something to make him happy. The whole family counsel together can't please the little tyrant. No, it isn't funny, friend; it's to cry over. If it weren't so tragic, it would be absurd, but it is wicked. This is the child that grows up in a few years to riot in the streets. These indulgences are supposed to make the child happy, but it is these very things that make him restless, discontented, and satisfied with nothing.

Oh friends, I offer you something wonderful—a return to God's plan of life. Now let's get down to some very practical things about it. You're well acquainted with the fact that in the Bible, the husband and father occupies what position? The head of the house. Like everything else I'm studying tonight, that's woefully old fashioned. But God has plainly predicted the situation in which we find ourselves in today. You'll find it in Isaiah 3:

“As for my people, children are their oppressors, and women rule over them. O my people, they which lead thee cause thee to err, and destroy the way of thy paths”
Isaiah 3:12.

God knew what He was doing when He placed a legislative and judicial authority in the hands of the husband and father. Let me tell you something interesting. One of the leading judges of New York City, who deals with thousands of cases of juvenile delinquency, was led to make a study of the statistics of juvenile crime in various parts of the world among different races, and different cultural groups. Do you know what he found? All over this planet, in nations, in civilizations, where the husband and the father was the ruler, and his word was law there was very little juvenile crime, very little juvenile delinquency. But where the father was downgraded, and the mother and children took over, plenty of trouble, plenty of problems. This is one of the basic problems in America today.

Just as there is a longing in every child's heart for leadership, there's a longing in every normal woman's heart for a husband that will *lead*. Worthy of leadership to be sure; that's the way God intended it. God knows that too many children today have neither father nor mother that knows a thing about leadership. God pity them. And too many wives today have husbands that if they're leading, they're leading to hell. God pity them.

I'm talking tonight about the good way, the ideal way, the happy way. The happy way is the home where the husband and father is the priest of the household, and the mother as the queen of the household recognized that there is a king. Yes, dear mothers, your queens, but remember: the husband and father is the king, he's the priest. All the members of the family center in him.

The restlessness of women of a generation or two back is finding it's harvest in the restlessness and the revolution of children and youth today. I'm not going to spend time apologizing and explaining that I don't mean making slaves of either children or wives. You know better than that, friends. The law of God is the pathway of liberty, and true liberty is found in the home where the husband and father loves his wife and loves his children enough to supply heaven-inspired leadership. This satisfies the hidden hunger for security. This satisfies the longing to find some answers that are certain.

Now, of course, no husband and father, no father and mother, can do what I'm studying unless they're deep students of the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy, and follow what they read. This isn't something that you can learn from the world. There is no university in the world that can teach you what we're studying tonight. Far from it, something entirely different. One of our troubles is this, friends: Nearly all of us have drunk so much from the pagan streams of education that flow from old Egypt and Babylon and Greece and Rome. We have drunk so much from those pagan streams that our minds are polluted with worldly ideas.

I invite you to turn from those and come to the fountainhead and get your ideas about home government from the Bible and the Spirit of Prophecy. They read exactly what they read a hundred years ago. This is the way to be happy.

I want to read you something from one of the leading men in this nation, one of the President's closest advisors:

"My primary feeling about our students is sadness over the conditions that produce them. They are looking for heroes—not for brothers, but for fathers."

That's exactly what young people are looking for; most of them don't know it. Looking for heroes—not brothers, but fathers; they're looking for leaders. God has supplied leaders in Heaven and on earth. He has given fathers and mothers the business of leading their children. He has given God-fearing teachers the business of leading their students. He has given ministers and church officers the business of leading their flocks. And above all these delegated authorities in home, in state, in church, in school, and in every other institution that God has established, behind and

above them all stands our dear Lord working in and through His delegated authorities.

And may I tell you dear young people, I tell you in love and with joy in my heart, but I want to warn you that God is not going to bypass the authorities He has established and establish a youth movement where the youth take over and tell everybody else what to do. He's not going to do that; He's not about to do it. And I care not if it be in the name of religion; I care not if it rears its serpent head in the remnant church. Beware of it.

Let's turn to Malachi, the fourth chapter, and you'll see what I mean. This whole fourth chapter of Malachi is dealing with the closing events of human history.

“Remember ye the law of Moses my servant, which I commanded unto him in Horeb for all Israel, with the statutes and judgments. Behold, I will send you Elijah the prophet before the coming of the great and dreadful day of the LORD: And he shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children, and the heart of the children to their fathers, lest I come and smite the earth with a curse” Malachi 4:4–6.

The curse is here, the curse of lawlessness and riot, of revolution of rebellion, the curse is here. But thank God Elijah is here too. Elijah has come. He has come in this movement. The inspired instructions that God has given us through the Spirit of Prophecy are indeed the voice of Elijah in this generation. Shall we listen?

What's he doing? He shall turn the heart of the fathers to the children and the heart of the children to their fathers. A youth movement? Indeed, a movement of youth turning to their parents for leadership.

God is in the business of uniting and cementing parents and children. And if the only way you know how to get a religious experience is to tear away from the restrictions of home, pull yourself away from the love and law of your parents, I fear the type of religious experience you will get. I invite you to listen to the voice of Elijah.

Somebody says, “If I were to do anything like this, I wouldn't be *in* with the crowd I go with.” You'd better get another crowd then, friends. I put it right plain, you'd better get another crowd. The crowd of rebels are going over the precipice and soon. The faster they march, the sooner they get where they're going. Oh, I'm so glad that I'm talking to a group of young people who know the joy of uniting with parents and teachers instead of getting off and cooking up something by themselves. I'm so glad I'm talking to some young people tonight that know the joy of making father and mother happy, and making their teachers and home heads happy.

I saw something today what made me glad. Some students showed me a present they were getting ready for a teacher. I think it's going to be a surprise. I thought it was nice that these students were getting together to do something nice for a teacher. Who put that into their hearts? The Holy Spirit. They weren't getting together in a conspiracy to burn down the administration building or take over the

office. No, nothing like that. Do you see what I mean, friend? And I know they're happy. But listen: the more we enter into this spirit we are studying tonight, the happier we'll be.

In the 15th chapter of Luke's Gospel, the Master teacher tells what has been called the greatest short story ever written. It has been named the parable of the prodigal son, but someone has suggested that it ought to be called the parable of the wonderful father.

You remember it. Here was a young man. He was quite modern. He decided that the time to have things was now, now, now. He belonged to the "now generation." He couldn't even wait for his father to die to get his inheritance. And he had the audacity to ask his father to run ahead of the provisions of the will and instead of waiting to die, to turn it over to him right now. And interestingly enough, his father did it. Don't think that what we're studying is slavery. It's far from slavery, friend. If anybody here wants to riot, God will let him. If there's any child here who wants to rebel, God won't send a policeman to put you in jail for it. He'll let you rebel, but you won't be happy. It might make you excited. It did to this young man. He took all that money and property off he went to where? To a *far* country. He wanted to get just as far away from home as he could. And there he lived it up for some time. He thought he was having a wonderful time.

But all the while gnawing at his deepest heart was a hidden hungry. Wine couldn't satisfy it. It could only intoxicate him. Vile companions couldn't satisfy that craving. They might inflame his lust. Foolish songs and silly music he heard might silence the voice of conscience, but there was always the morning after the night before. He sought to plunge deeper and deeper into rebellion and indulgence in order to silence those warnings of conscience.

The time came when his money was gone, and his friends left just about as soon as the money gave out. Finally, we see him out feeding hogs and about ready to eat what they were eating. He was so hungry.

Hungry? Yes. But not just in his stomach. He was hungry in his soul. What's he longing for? The Bible says finally he came to himself. Do you know what he decided to do? "I will arise and go to my Father."

"Do you mean you're going back to dad? Why, I thought he was the fellow you were trying all the while to get away from."

"Yes, that's what I thought too. But now I know that the thing I really want is what I thought I wanted to get away from. I will arise and go to my father."

I love that picture of the reunion, don't you? The son coming in his rags and the father, looking as he's looked a thousand days down that road, sees his son coming, and runs to meet him. He throws his arms around him. Oh, the joy of reunion! As the boy all those years was longing for his father but didn't know it, all those years the father was longing for his son and *did* know it. There' is a hunger in the hearts of fathers and mothers, if they're half awake and half alive, for this union.

Talk about the generation gap, the Devil invented the idea. Elijah is uniting parents and children. What we need is a message, not that deal with youth over here somewhere and old folks over there. Bring them together through the grace of Jesus Christ. Bring them together through the holy principles of this holy law. This is the way to get ready for Heaven. This is the way to get ready for Armageddon. This is the way to be survivors in earth's last war, for the issue is one of loyalty or rebellion, law-keeping or law-breaking.

Yes, friends, that prodigal son, when he got home, he found what his heart had been longing for all the time. The problem was that he reached the point before he left home where he didn't know what we're studying tonight, and he thought he could find the answer in the far country—his body was at home, but not his heart. His hands served his father, but his mind was far from him.

Dear friend, young or old, where do you stand tonight? Do you know the joy of law-keeping? I repeat, my emphasis tonight is not on righteousness of it. It is the simple fact that it is the only way to be happy.

Somebody says, "But Brother Frazee, you don't know the kind of parents I have."

No, I don't. I'll tell you this: The Lord Who made you knows exactly what kind of parents you have. And if you don't understand in this life, you will when you get home to your Father's house. In the meantime, if you'll ask Him, He'll help you to make a good job of being a good son or a good daughter to the parents He gave you.

If you're one of those who have no parents, or if you're one of those whose parents don't know anything about God, and can't give you leadership, if you ask the Lord—don't miss this—God will hear your prayer and supply you those who can take the place of parents and give you the leadership that His law calls for. You may have to pray hard and want it real bad. But if you do, He will supply it.

All who receive the seal of the living God are going to love every precept of the Decalogue. Where are you tonight? Are you in the far country, or in the Father's house?

Shall we go home, friends? Oh, what a harbor to anchor in. What a haven to find refuge in. Home, home, that's what Heaven is going to be. With Father at home, we can have a little heaven here to go to Heaven in. Let's have it. What do you say?

Dear fathers and mothers. Too many of us have made it hard for children to learn these lessons. We've either been harsh or indulgent, or a terrible mixture of both of those. Shall we learn Heaven's way? If we have failed our children, let's let them know that we're going to seek to be more like Jesus and less like the world. Let's make the rule of law attractive. Let us demonstrate in our own lives that it's keeping the law that brings us happiness and that by God's grace, we know how to lead our children into the way of obedience. Shall we do that, parents?

If you have been harsh or indulgent, don't hesitate to confess to your children.

Young people and children, if you wonder how you could ever love a thing like this, I'll let you in on a little secret. You learn to love it by living it. Let me illustrate. I wonder if there is anybody in this audience tonight who used to love swine's flesh, ham or bacon. You used to just love it, and now you don't like it at all. May I see your hands? Why there's just scores of you. Tell me, I want to ask you something: What happened? Did you suddenly get a distaste for it and give it up, or did you give it up because you knew that to give it up was right, and you gradually lost your taste for it? Which one was it, the first or the last?

[Audience response] The last.

You're unanimous on that, aren't you?

That's just the way it is with what we're studying about tonight. Children and young people, if we've got some excitement from drinking stolen waters, if we've got some thrills from rebellion and disobedience, and if what we've studied tonight looks tame and boring, I tell you it's far from that; it's the only way of satisfaction. But don't expect that you're going to automatically and suddenly wake up and jump from one world to the other. Oh, no. Down on your knees with Jesus, you need to ask Him to forgive you for breaking His law, and then ask Him to change your heart, and He'll begin to do it. He'll give you grace to do it even when you don't feel like it. And if you'll keep doing it—don't miss this last point, it's the most important thing tonight—if you keep doing it even when you don't feel like it, the time will come when it will make you happy from head to toe. That's right.

This is the answer. This is what satisfies the hidden hunger. This is what gives real security because then you are integrated with the universe. You're linked with the great line of authority that has its center and source in God.

I'm going to give an invitation tonight, that the Holy Spirit will impress hearts. There's some child here tonight who's been disobedient, and tonight you say, "Brother Frazee, God's talking to me. I want to turn away from this disobedience, and I want Jesus to give me grace to honor and obey father and mother and to love it." If so, I'm inviting you to come forward, kneel here and seek the Lord. And some young person that says, "Brother Frazee, I've been infected with this idea of a youth movement to take things in the hands of youth and just show things that we can do. But I see that tonight, I need to take my place meekly, as Elisha did with Elijah, as Timothy did with Paul, as David did with his father. I see that I need to learn as Jesus did in the home at Nazareth and the carpenter shop. Instead of thinking I'm going to be some youthful progeny, and instead of thinking that in my teens and twenties I'm going to set the world on fire, I'm going to calmly and sweetly and meekly be an apprentice like David, and like John the Baptist, and like Jesus."

Oh, dear friends, there's some young person here tonight has caught that vision and has seen they need a change in their life, come up here to the altar and seek God for you need the Holy Spirit to walk this way, which is so unfamiliar today.

There's some parent here tonight that is saying, "Brother Frazee, this gets next to my heart. I see that I've been too indulgent; I've just let the bars down. I've let the permissive spirit of this lawless generation come into my home, and I've been letting things run at loose ends."

Come, my dear friend, repent and seek God for an experience in which you love law and lift the standard.

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