

Hungreedy

By Laura L. Shaw

As my kids and I were driving home from some errands not long ago, it was THAT time of day: late in the afternoon, just before dinner. The smell of restaurants was seeping through the vents, and the Shaw drama gene had decided to come out front and center in my son. *"I am SOOOO hunnnnnngry, Mom. I'm starving. I could eat this car, I could eat that house, I could eat everrrrrything!"* My nine-year old daughter, who is not used to being shown up in the drama department, replied, *"Well, that's greedy, Austin!"* Then her "squishy" (that's what she calls her brain...☺) coined a phrase: *"Hey, Mom, he's 'hungreedy'! Get it? He's hungry, and he's greedy."* We all spent the next mile laughing over the new, creative buzzword that would eventually make it into the dictionary, no doubt about it.

The taste of turkey franks, easy mac & carrot sticks had never been more appreciated than it was about 15 minutes after returning home from our errands. One would have thought it was a meal fit for royalty! I took the opportunity to remind the kids of a verse I love in Matthew 5:6: ***"Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled."*** I paraphrased for them: *"Blessed are those who are HUNGREEDY for righteousness, for they will be filled."* I explained to them that Jesus wants us to desire right living with Him above everything else. It wasn't until later that I realized I only gave them part of the message.

What does it really mean for us to starve after righteousness? What does that look like for us as believers today? In John 6:35, it says ***"Then Jesus declared, 'I am the bread of life. He who comes to me will never go hungry, and he who believes in me will never be thirsty.'"*** ***So to pursue righteousness is to pursue our relationship with the Righteous One.*** As we come to Him and believe in Him, He will fill us up with Christ-likeness through the power of the Spirit. To try to be and do right on our own is complicated as well as impossible to keep up. To draw near to the Savior and let Him fill us as a result, knowing that we will be changed as we spend time with Him---well, that's simple---and permanently doable.

While I'm relatively certain that it won't be long before our new family buzzword is making its rounds in society ☺, my genuine hope is that we would begin to understand what it looks like to be "hungreedy" for a relationship with Christ—and that it would permeate our lives practically. *Do we want His will, or do we want our way? Do we want Christ-likeness, or do we want others to like us? Are we desperate for more time with Him, and does it compel us to make the necessary changes in order to do so?* When the hunger pangs for the Lord growl in your inner being, run to the Bread of life and have your fill, your meal fit for royalty as sons and daughters in the presence of the King.

Amen.