

Heaven Came Down  
"Satisfies The Hungry"  
12/10/17

-VHS football on a great season

-Intro:

-In our new series, we are describing what happened when "Heaven Came Down."

-That's what the Good News is all about.

-Recently went to Hobby Lobby to look for Christmas decorations.

-Found a Cross Wreath to put on our front porch.

-Amy "Shouldn't that be for Easter?"

-Matt: "Amy, the Cross is Christmas."

-Jesus was born to die for sinners just like you and me.

-“This is love, not that we loved God but that He loved us and sent His Son as a propitiation for our sins.”

-“God made Him Who knew no sin to become sin for us so that we could become the righteousness of God.”

-“Thanks be to God for His indescribable gift.”

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-What does Heaven Coming Down in the person of Jesus mean for us today?

-It means that Jesus is available to Satisfy the Hungry.

-If you drove to McDonald's in 1955, the largest serving of soda you could get was seven ounces.

-Today, if you go to a McDonald's drive-thru and you order the large soda, you get 32 ounces.

-And free refills are included.

-Point: The more we get the more we want.

-That's true for every person at every pay level.

-We are all born thirsting and hungering for something more.

-Q: What does the world hunger for?

-**Possessions:** Buying things, think that the next purchase will be the one that truly satisfies. (House, boat, sportscar, cellphone...)

-**Praise:** In the eyes of men (so many base their worth and value on what other's think of them).

-**Power:** To be in control.

-**Promotion:** So that I can make more money and have more possessions and be more recognized in my profession.

-**Pleasure:** Sex, drugs, pornography, alcohol, TV, video games, whatever.

-**People:** More friends, better spouse.

-**Play:** Entertainment, Hobbies, more time to do them.

-**Places:** New adventures, move to a different place.

-**Promises:** “If I could just get married, or have children, or have the children leave or get a divorce, then I will be satisfied.”

-Most of these are not inherently evil on their own except for that which God calls, “sin.”

-They become evil when they replace God as the source of fulfillment.

-Solomon:

-**Ecclesiastes 2:1-11** (NLT) I said to myself, “Come on, let’s try pleasure. Let’s look for the ‘good things’ in life.” But I found that this, too, was meaningless.

<sup>2</sup> So I said, “Laughter is silly. What good does it do to seek pleasure?”

<sup>3</sup> After much thought, I decided to cheer myself with wine. And while still seeking wisdom, I clutched at foolishness. In this way, I tried to experience the only happiness most people find during their brief life in this world.

<sup>4</sup> I also tried to find meaning by building huge homes for myself and by planting beautiful vineyards.

<sup>5</sup> I made gardens and parks, filling them with all kinds of fruit trees.

<sup>6</sup> I built reservoirs to collect the water to irrigate my many flourishing groves.

<sup>7</sup> I bought slaves, both men and women, and others were born into my household. I also owned large herds and flocks, more than any of the kings who had lived in Jerusalem before me.

<sup>8</sup> I collected great sums of silver and gold, the treasure of many kings and provinces. I hired wonderful singers, both men and women, and had many beautiful concubines. I had everything a man could desire!

<sup>9</sup> So I became greater than all who had lived in Jerusalem before me, and my wisdom never failed me.

<sup>10</sup> Anything I wanted, I would take. I denied myself no pleasure. I even found great pleasure in hard work, a reward for all my labors.

<sup>11</sup> But as I looked at everything I had worked so hard to accomplish, it was all so meaningless—like chasing the wind. There was nothing really worthwhile anywhere.

-**Jim Mason Story**—guy who went to my church growing up.

-Daughter and I were in grade school through high school together (we even “liked” each other in middle school.)

-I knew that Mr. Mason played Major League Baseball. (Senators, Blue Jays, Rangers, Expos and the NYY)

-He showed me his 1976 New York Yankees pennant ring and let me try it on.

- I asked him why he never wore it.
- He told me his story:
  - Everything he was and ever dreamed was wrapped up in MLB.
  - He pursued everything that went along with that.
  - In the 1976 World Series, he played SS and hit a home run.

-*“Here I was, 20 something years old. I accomplished my dream of hitting a Major League homerun in the World Series, and yet I felt so empty after reaching my dream. It wasn’t what I thought it would be.”*  
 -Soon after that Jim Mason found Christ.

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- What do we as believers know?
    - We know that satisfaction can only be found in Jesus.
    - And Jesus came to satisfy the hungry, human heart.

-Scripture:

- Woman at the well.
- John 4:13-14** (NLT) Jesus replied, “Anyone who drinks this water will soon become thirsty again.  
<sup>14</sup> But those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again. It becomes a fresh, bubbling spring within them, giving them eternal life.”

- Hungry hillside crowd
- John 6:35** (NLT) Jesus replied, “I am the bread of life. Whoever comes to me will never be hungry again. Whoever believes in me will never be thirsty.  
 -Jesus shows them their spiritual hunger that is in the heart of every man.

- To the crowd in Jerusalem
- John 7:37-38** (NLT) On the last day, the climax of the festival, Jesus stood and shouted to the crowds, “Anyone who is thirsty may come to me!  
<sup>38</sup> Anyone who believes in me may come and drink! For the Scriptures declare, ‘Rivers of living water will flow from his heart.’”  
 -That will satisfy the longing of every human heart.  
 -Jesus is the only one that can.

-Dutch theologian, **Herman Bavinck**, wrote in his handbook of theology called, Our Reasonable Faith, these words, “*God, and God alone, is man’s highest good. He and he alone is the abundant fountain of all goods.*”

- Augustine** famously said, “*Thou hast made us for Thyself, and our hearts are restless until they rest in Thee.*”  
 -What did Jesus say to the woman at the well? “*Those who drink the water I give will never be thirsty again.*”

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-How do you get to the point where you are never spiritually thirsty again?

- (1) **Filled Once**  
 -Come to Christ initially...

- (2) **Continually Filled**

-Spend time with Him and be filled up by Him and enjoy Him and delight in Him and get to know Him.

-Instead of feasting on the empty, garbage of this world, FEED on CHRIST

-Here's what you'll find:

**-Jesus is the Treasure**

-Real, Creator, Savior, Friend Who never leaves, He delight's in you, knows your name, Faithful, Trustworthy, Full of Mercy, Patient, Truth, Lord, Master, Alive and available to me, Unconditionally loves me and can do anything for me.

-Song, *"The longer I serve Him, the sweeter He grows..."*

**-In Jesus, you are God's Treasure**

-Child of God, Friend of Jesus, Justified to God by faith, No longer a slave to sin and unrighteousness, No longer guilty or condemned, Set free, an heir of the inheritance with Christ, Accepted by God, Saint, Righteous, Redeemed, Indwelt by God, New Creation, Blessed with every spiritual blessing in the Heavenly Realm, Chosen by God and blameless before Him, Forgiven, Seated with Christ in heavenly places with all principalities and powers under my feet, Hidden in Christ, Clothed with the Righteousness of Jesus, God's masterpiece, Able to come boldly into the Throne of Grace, Walking in the Light, Having the mind of Christ, a Citizen of Heaven, Extravagantly Loved by God, Victorious.

-In Jesus,

-You are loved by a Good Father

-You are now part of a loving family

-You now belong to a Kingdom that is not of this world.

-Why would you crave anything else?

-Let me ask you:

-Is your joy found in Jesus?

-Is your worth and value found in Jesus?

-Is your identity found in Jesus?

-Is your satisfaction found in Jesus?

-Be filled and be continually filled by Him,

-Come often to the well and be filled by Him.

-Let Him be your never ending source of fulfillment.

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-Communion Intro:

**-1 Corinthians 11:23-28** (NLT) For I pass on to you what I received from the Lord himself. On the night when he was betrayed, the Lord Jesus took some bread 24 and gave thanks to God for it. Then he broke it in pieces and said, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this to remember me."

25 In the same way, he took the cup of wine after supper, saying, "This cup is the new covenant between God and his people—an agreement confirmed with my blood. Do this to remember me as often as you drink it."

26 For every time you eat this bread and drink this cup, you are announcing the Lord's death until he comes again.

27 So anyone who eats this bread or drinks this cup of the Lord unworthily is guilty of sinning against the body and blood of the Lord.

28 That is why you should examine yourself before eating the bread and drinking the cup.

-Communion reminds us of several Spiritual truths:

(1) **My body, given for you.**

- Jesus, our perfect and sinless God, willingly crawled upon a cross that had your name and my name on it
- Taking our sin and shame
- Enduring God's wrath because of it.
- We deserved to die because of our sin and rebellion but Jesus took our place.
- He now extends His hand of forgiveness to anyone willing to
- Trust in His sacrifice
- Believe on His Name

(2) **New Covenant between God and His people.**

- “This is the New Covenant...”
- The wall of sin and separation has been torn down forever because of the blood of Christ.

(3) **Announcing the Lord's death until He comes again.**

- We do this “until He comes again.”
- One day soon, all who believe in Jesus will share a meal with Jesus in Heaven at the Wedding Supper of the Lamb.

(4) **Remember Me**

- He repeats it over and over to His disciples.
  - “Don't forget. This is about what I did for you.”
- Don't partake in an unworthy manner.
- Examine yourself before you take.
  
- We as Christ-followers partake with clean hands and a pure heart.
  - We are to be prepared before we partake
    - Only for those who have put their faith and trust in Jesus
    - Only for those whose hearts are right with God.

-Explain our process:

- Don't dismiss by rows...there are several stations located throughout the auditorium.
- After I pray, you can get up and go to the stations when you are ready.
- One of our elders will be at each station to pray with you and minister to you
- Afterwards return you your seat and we will continue our time of worship.

-Pray and Dismiss to Stations

-Bridge Group Questions

(1) What stood out to you most about this week's message?

- (2) What's the one gift growing up that you had to have and thought you would be eternally satisfied if you got it?
- (3) Do you ever feel the pull of the world molding you to crave what it offers? Explain.
- (4) Can you relate to Solomon? How so?
- (5) How have you found Jesus to be your source of fulfillment? Explain.
- (6) How do you stay continually satisfied in Him?