



## Who Wants Beans When There's Barbecue On The Table?

**Eccl 6:7** All the labor of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.

**Matt 5:6** Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

### 1. Introduction

a. Some time ago, my family and I visited a favorite barbecue restaurant of ours; it had been quite awhile since I had eaten some good barbecue, and the afternoon had slipped away from us without a noon meal, so by the time we decided to have barbecue, I had worked up a good appetite. When the food was served, I wasted no time with corn-on-the-cob, Texas toast, potato salad, or even the pinto beans.

i. You see, as much as I like pinto beans—and believe me, I do enjoy good pinto beans!—when I sat down at that table, my appetite was not for pinto beans.

ii. I wanted barbecue. Brisket, chicken, pulled pork, hot links...I didn't want beans; I wanted barbecue!

b. My question to someone here this morning is, who wants beans when there's barbecue on the table?

### 2. Who Wants Beans?

a. Some things just don't satisfy

i. You're already sitting there thinking about what's for lunch. I've already got your appetite worked up for something tasty!

ii. Some of you are going to be hard-pressed to go home and eat a sandwich for lunch after the way I've talked about barbecue.

(1) And I ask you this: If your appetite for barbecue can't be filled by a bologna sandwich, what kind of appetite do you have for GOD?

(a) Is it something that can that can be satisfied with just a spiritual bologna sandwich? Or does somebody here have an appetite that says *"I'm not eatin' beans when there's barbecue on the table!"*

b. Hunger causes strange things to happen to a man/woman

i. You lose all your manners

(1) It doesn't really matter which is the salad fork and which is the dinner fork.

(2) It wouldn't matter if you were eating on fine china or Chinet paper plates.

(3) You wouldn't fret about how to hold your fork and knife if you were truly hungry.

(a) Someone once stated "A starving man has no manners."

ii. Yet there's a difference between starvation and having a healthy appetite.

(1) When you're starving, you'll snatch at anything to try to satisfy your craving.

(a) Drugs

(b) Alcohol

(c) Immorality

(2) This world is snatching at anything and everything in a feeble attempt to stave off the pangs of spiritual starvation.

(3) But when you're hungry for something in particular, nothing else will really satisfy you!

(a) If I want barbecue, pizza won't do the trick!

(i) I'll get filled up, but there will be something within me that's still not satisfied.

(b) When you get hungry for GOD, nothing else will satisfy.

(i) I know our world is facing spiritual starvation, and I know that people are looking everywhere for anything to fulfill that hunger.

(ii) But I also believe that there is a spiritual awakening—a hunger, if you will—happening in our world that only Jesus can satisfy.

1) Hear me when I tell you that, in the words of that old song, *"Only Jesus can satisfy your soul."*

3. There's Barbecue On The Table!

a. In **John 21**, the disciples had been fishing all night long and had caught nothing.

i. Yet when Jesus shows up, He calls them in for breakfast:

(1) John 21: 2-13 from the New Living Translation:

Simon Peter said, "I'm going fishing." "We'll come, too," they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night. At dawn the disciples saw Jesus standing on the beach, but they couldn't see who he was. He called out, "Friends, have you caught any fish?" "No," they replied. Then he said, "Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you'll get plenty of fish!" So they did, and they couldn't draw in the net because there were so many fish in it. Then the disciple whom Jesus loved said to Peter, "It is the Lord!" When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and swam ashore. The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only out about three hundred feet. **When they got there, they saw that a charcoal fire was burning and fish were frying over it, and there was bread.** "Bring some of the fish you've just caught," Jesus said. So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn't torn. "Now come and have some breakfast!" Jesus said. And no one dared ask him if he really was the Lord because they were sure of it. Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish.

(2) My next question: *Where did the fish that Jesus had come from?*

(a) I'm telling someone that Jesus has already provided everything that you're hungry for this morning!

(b) Why waste your time trying to satisfy your spiritual hunger with things that will never do the job, when you can find what you've been looking for right here this morning?

(3) Who wants beans when there's barbecue on the table?!

4. Conclusion

a. I read to you at the opening of this message:

i. **Ecc 6:7 All the labour of man is for his mouth, and yet the appetite is not filled.**

ii. You can spend the rest of your life scratching for something to try to fill that craving you've got.

(1) You might even hit the jackpot, find superstardom, live like a king or queen and have everything you think your heart could ever want.

(2) But in the end, you'd find out you were satisfied with nothing when GOD is offering you everything.

5. Closing

- a. I trust this morning that, although the title of my sermon was deliberately humorous, nothing has been taken lightly about the Promise GOD has for you.
- i. When Jesus Christ said “Blessed are they that do hunger and thirst after righteousness, for they shall be filled.”, He was inviting you to a spiritual banquet, my friend.
- ii. Just as He promised then, He still means it today:
  - (1) Jesus can satisfy the appetite in your heart today.
- b. Who wants to settle for beans and bread when there’s so much more to be found today?
  - i. who wants beans when there’s barbecue on the table?
- c. Come find in these altars the very thing your heart has been hungry for so long.