

THE DANGER OF BEING SATISFIED

- Our **mission** is to *Reach* people in the Name of Jesus; *Disciple* people in the Way of Jesus; *Empower* people in the Service of Jesus.
 - Our **method** is to ensure that everything we do is *Christ Centered; Word Focused; & Ministry Minded*
 - Our **message** is *the Gospel*.
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Deuteronomy 8:10-14

INTRODUCTION:

The word “full” in verse 10 means satisfied and is translated satisfied in the NIV and the NASB. The Hebrew word “full” or “satisfied” means: “to fill to satisfaction. To have plenty of; to be fulfilled; to have one’s fill; to have in excess.”

The Israelites were a blessed people. God had been very good to them. Read verses 15 and 16. Later on God would bless them by giving them nice places to stay in, and He would multiply their wealth through flocks and herds as well as with silver and gold. They would eat of all that God would give them and become full and running over. Their stomachs (spiritually speaking) would be bulging out from all of the blessings of God.

You and I can look at that and say that is wonderful. Isn’t that just like our God to bless His people with so much? But the Lord knew that there was also a danger in their receiving so many blessings. He knew that there would be the tendency for them to forget Him now that they were so blessed. They would have the tendency to think that they didn’t need God now that things were going so well for them.

God knows that when people are so abundantly blessed that they have a tendency to forget who it was that enabled them to get their blessings. They have a tendency to enjoy the gifts but forget the ‘*gift-giver*.’

BODY:

Verse 10 “*When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you.*”

To put our verse and theme in context, we have to go back to chapter 1 and verses 6-8, ‘*The Lord our God said to us at Horeb, "You have stayed long enough at this mountain. Break camp and advance... See, I have given you this land. Go in and take possession of the land"*

We can apply such thought either to the church fellowship as a whole, or to our own personal lives. I always start with making things as personal as I can.

Israel had arrived at Horeb, and while they were camping (for what was supposed to be a little or short while); even with all the problems that arose, challenges and frustrations, many began to feel like it was not a bad life at all. In effect, they had taken early retirement from the slavery of, Egypt and all their needs were being met by the Lord their God. He was their provider. Everyday the provisions came, their clothes never wore out neither did their shoes. Each day of their life they were experiencing miracles from God. God was good to them! The danger was that they would grow lazy in the provision of God.

Is that not a danger for us all to face up to!?! We become content to dwell in the same provision that we had known ever since we left 'Egypt'. We refuse to accept that there is something better for us if we are just prepared to move on - in faith 'Yes.' They didn't know what lay ahead neither do we, we do have the same God involved in our lives plus the same promises and a whole lot more.

Note this, chapter 8:3 'He humbled you, causing you to hunger and then feeding you with manna.' **There is always a testing time before there is triumph!** This is the obvious understanding of this verse, but there is also another way to look at verse three. **There has to be real hunger before there is provision and there also has to be hunger before we begin to look for something special from God!** — In general most people don't need a loan from the bank to until they have nothing. In spiritual terms, **you will never see that you have a need which only God can meet, until you see the bankruptcy of your own spiritual life!**

Read verses 18-20. In these verses the Lord tells them what will happen if they forget God after being satisfied.

Is it possible that the church today (the *Universal Church*) has done what the Lord warned them about and what they themselves later did? It may be that in our time God has blessed us so much, that we are filled up completely and satisfied and in that satisfaction we have forgotten God.

Just take a few moments and look around and then look at yourself and you will realize that we are a blessed people. The fact that we are here today is an indication that we are blessed. What I am afraid of is that we have become so blessed that we have become satisfied and forgotten God. We have forgotten that it is God who has blessed us and **now that we are so blessed what He wants us to do is not quiet as important as it use to be.** You say, "...not me pastor. I know this message isn't for me; it must be for my brother or sister." But let's consider some things here for just a moment.

Would you agree that we seem not to hunger for the things of God like we used to when we first were saved, and before we became so blessed? We used to pray and read our Bibles all the time, but now that we are so blessed and somewhat satisfied we don't seem to have time for the things of God.

Our church attendance has become inconsistent, and we used to give more and be sure that our tithes were paid before anything else; but now that God has blessed us and we have more...

we have become somewhat satisfied and no longer see the need to give as much and don't feel condemned if we miss paying or giving our fair share every now and then (whether our time, talent, tithe or resources).

We use to do a lot in church, always volunteering for anything that needed to be done. But now that we are so blessed with a job that the Lord has given us, we have become satisfied and don't want to do anything for the Lord or the church. We don't have time for Him because we work so much and we are tired when we come home. We forget that the Lord is the one who gave us that job. Would we have more time for Him if we were to lose that job?

Do you see what the Lord is trying to say to us all today!?! There is a danger in becoming satisfied!

CONCLUSION:

Listen to a prayer found in Proverbs 30:8, 9 from TLB – “(8) *First, help me never to tell a lie. Second, give me neither poverty nor riches! Give me just enough to satisfy my needs! (9) For if I grow rich, I may become content without God. And if I am too poor, I may steal and thus insult God's holy name.*”

Hosea 13:4-6 – “*But I am the LORD your God, who brought you out of Egypt. You shall acknowledge no God but me, no Savior except me. I cared for you in the desert, in the land of burning heat. When I fed them, they were satisfied; when they were satisfied, they became proud; then they forgot me.*”

MSG – 4-6 “*I'm still your God, the God who saved you out of Egypt. I'm the only real God you've ever known. I'm the one and only God who delivers. I took care of you during the wilderness hard times, those years when you had nothing. I took care of you, took care of all your needs, gave you everything you needed. You were spoiled. You thought you didn't need me. You forgot me.*”

Listen to Revelation 3:16-17 and see if this does not describe the condition of some in the church today (NKJV): “(16) *So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. (17) Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing'—and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked.*” *There is a danger of being satisfied and not needing God.*”

MSG – 15-17 “*I know you inside and out, and find little to my liking. You're not cold, you're not hot—far better to be either cold or hot! You're stale. You're stagnant. You make me want to vomit. You brag, 'I'm rich, I've got it made, I need nothing from anyone,' oblivious that in fact you're a pitiful, blind beggar, threadbare and homeless.*”

Jesus said, (Luke 6:21), *'Blessed are you who hunger now for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now for you will laugh'*. (1 Peter 2:2) *'Like newborn babes, crave pure spiritual milk, so that by it you may grow up in your salvation'*.

Is there a real hunger in your life for the better things God has in store for you or is there a willingness to simply accept what you are and what you have right now?

God's desire is that we know His provision. (8:3) '*...that he might make you understand that a man does not live by bread alone, but man lives by everything that proceeds out of the mouth of the Lord*'.

What can we receive from the Lord? REAL SATISFACTION! (Psalm 63:3) '*Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee*'. (Isaiah 58:11) '*The Lord will guide you always; he will satisfy your needs in a sun-scorched land and will strengthen your frame. You will be like a well watered garden, like a spring whose waters never fails*'.

Is there a real hunger and thirst in your life for the best God has to offer, or are you content to stay where you are?

The source. (John 7:37) '*...Jesus stood and said in a loud voice. If a man is thirsty, let him come to me and drink*'.

The Praise.(Deuteronomy 8:10) '*When you have eaten and are satisfied, praise the Lord your God for the good land he has given you*'.

Develop your desire for the things of God and claim them, then give thanks for what he gives you.

8:11 commences 'Be careful...'

8:12 '*...when you eat and are satisfied, when you build fine houses and settle down 13-14 and when your herds and flocks grow large and your silver and gold increase and all you have is multiplied...(when God touches your life expect his blessings also). Now the warning then your heart will become proud and you will forget the Lord your God...'*

Don't become settled – satisfied – self reliant – stayed – stuck. Constantly look to God for His goodness and be willing to move on in your spiritual experience under His direction.

“...as it is written, Eye hath not seen, nor ear heard, neither have entered into the heart of man, the things which God hath prepared for them that love him.” (1 Corinthians 2:9)