



Going Deeper Questions  
Poverty  
Brynn Harrington

**Sermon Scripture Passage**

Isaiah 55:1-2; Matthew 5:6; Matthew 25:31-40

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**Fun icebreaker question**

If you could choose your last meal, what would it be?

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**Discipleship Cycle: Debrief & Interpret**

As you reflected on last week's invitation to partner in Christ's mission to free the captives, what did you learn?

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**Quick Review: What stood out to you from this week's passage?**

1. Looking back at your notes from this week's passage and sermon, was there anything you heard for the first time or that caught your attention, challenged or confused you?
  2. Re-read Matthew 5:6. How does the biblical concept of righteousness and justice connect with our hunger? Why would Jesus connect the concept of compassion with our guts/stomachs? How can our own hunger awaken our compassion for neighbors?
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**My Story**

1. Why do you think Christians have separated the concepts of saving souls and feeding bodies? Think about your own past experiences in the church.
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Which part of the picture (social justice or evangelism) was emphasized? What could have used more emphasis? Which of these two concepts is easier for you, personally, to gravitate toward?

2. How are these two ideas connected in the Bible?

3. What keeps you from embracing the other emphasis (fear, time, skepticism, etc.)? Where might God be inviting you to grow in this area?

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### **Dive Deeper**

1. What do you know about food distribution and food insecurity in the world? What is our responsibility as Christians to engage with it? What are some practical ways we, as Christians, can live out Jesus' words in Matthew 25:31-40? How might you take a next step in being a part of that in your own life?

2. How could food become an idol in our lives that distracts us from God's Kingdom?

3. Does your lifestyle influence your food choices or do your food choices influence your lifestyle?

4. What are some ways that you could pursue generosity in your food choices?

5. As you reflect on the outreach opportunities we've covered so far in this series (foster care, college outreach, seafarers, prison ministry, food insecurity) or will talk about the next three weeks (immigration, healthcare, human trafficking), are there any that particularly tug on your heartstrings?

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### **Discipleship Cycle: Respond Actively**

Consider volunteering at the Health & Immigration Clinic on April 13th or with the SPUR Community Roots Garden on April 14th during Serve Sunday!

Consider volunteering at the April Outreach Meal on April 10th (make some chicken pot pie!)

Bring a freezer meal to someone who has recently gone through a life transition or health issue - don't ask if they need one, just make it and drop it off!

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Invite someone over for dinner, preferably someone you haven't gotten to know. \*Think outside your immediate circles - is there someone from a different generation, socioeconomic situation, or culture who you can reach out to and get to know? If you have kids, invite them to help choose who to invite, ask them to help you plan and prepare the meal, and delegate hospitality responsibilities to them!

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**A special question for couples and families**

How can we teach our children to eat with intention and generosity? What are some ways your family has engaged with healthy and/or compassionate eating that you can share with the other parents in the group? How can we brainstorm some practices together?

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