

Blessed Are Those Who Hunger

In 1800, a young Welsh girl named Mary Jones lived in a small village at the foot of a mountain. Her family was poor, and Bibles were extremely scarce in Wales at the time. But Mary had a burning desire to read God's Word for herself — not just to hear it read aloud in church, but to hold it, study it, know it personally.

At just 15 years old, she had spent six years saving up money, penny by penny. When she finally had enough, she learned that the nearest Bible for sale was nearly 26 miles away. With no horse or carriage, Mary walked the entire distance barefoot, across rocky hills and streams, just to buy a Bible from a minister named Thomas Charles.

When she arrived, Charles was moved to tears. He gave her the Bible she had longed for — and was so inspired by her story that he began working to make the Bible more widely available in Wales. That effort soon gave birth to the founding of the British and Foreign Bible Society — an organization that would go on to distribute millions of Bibles around the world.

Mary's story became legendary not because of her fame or education, but because of her hunger. She believed the Word of God was worth walking miles for, saving for, even suffering for. And that conviction changed history.*

“Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, For they shall be filled” (Matthew 5:6).

Blessed are those who are hungry for the Bible, for they will learn about God and His will for their lives. They will be taught about man's greatest problem (sin) and God's wonderful solution: salvation and eternal life through Jesus Christ.

“But God demonstrates His own love toward us, in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us” (Romans 5:8).

Jesus died on the cross for our sins so that we might have forgiveness of sin and receive the gift of eternal life (Ephesians 1:7; Romans 6:23).

God will save and give eternal life to those who place their faith and trust in Jesus (Acts 16:30-31), turn from their sins in repentance (Acts 17:30-31), confess Jesus before men (Romans 10:9-10), and are baptized (immersed) into Christ for the forgiveness of sins (Acts 2:38). He will continue to

cleanse from sin those who continue to walk in the light of His Word (1 John 1:7-9).

Truly, as Philip P. Bliss wrote, the Bible contains “Wonderful Words of Life.”

Sweetly echo the gospel call,
Wonderful words of life;
Offer pardon and peace to all,
Wonderful words of life;
Jesus, only Savior,
Sanctify forever
Beautiful words, wonderful words,
Wonderful words of life.

-- David A. Sargent

* From “37 Illustrations on the Power of God's Word” by Darrell Stetler II, in www.newstartdiscipleship.com.