

What riles you up? Pastor Jenny Smith Walz asked this question on July 22, 2018. Here are some notes from her message, titled “Hungering for God” based on the story of the “rich young ruler” in [Luke 18: 18-30](#).

And here are links to the [poem by Bishop David Lawson](#).

And to the [“Justice” video that she referred to](#).

Soon, the audio of the sermon will be available on the website, and the live stream is now posted on Facebook.

The topics that “rile you up” are clues to our hunger for God’s presence.

When Jesus was on his way to Jerusalem, the rich young ruler, hungry for Jesus, asks the difficult question, how to get eternal life.

Some believed that wealth indicated God’s approval. But Jesus said the opposite, that to get eternal life, the man must sell everything, give it to the poor, and follow Him.

At this point, Pastor Jenny told of how she received her call to Justice. “

God can reach inside of us to pull out something we didn’t know we needed.

She describes the video, “Justice,” which tells about power shifts - pictured as boxes that go up and down.

Sometimes we know why we have power and sometimes we don’t. In God’s world power is more even.

As we discover God’s grace, we learn how to reach down and help people move up. Their problems and struggles become ours.

As in Micah 6:8, we are told to

- Do justice
- Have mercy
- And walk humbly with our God

What did rich young ruler actually do?

Here she explains how, in those days, charities did not exist. You couldn’t just make a donation and walk away.

He would have had to get to know the poor, so their problems would be his problems.

What you need, Jesus said, is a WE

Maybe you need the poor more than they need you!

Pastor Jenny tells of her first efforts to give money and time. I started to talk with people. And be with people. To experience the crisis around immigration issues. She learned Spanish. I began to understand they were giving to ME. Some of my hunger for God was being met with those people.

Jesus was saying you can’t stand on top of your wealth and be saved. You need a ‘We.’ a whole world of We’s and the We’s have to include God.

Accumulating wealth is not a problem unless you forget that -- we need a ‘We’. A ‘We’ with God and a We with others around us.

What is your hunger today? Hunger pangs find satisfaction in God and God's presence.
You feel it when someone hums an old hymn,
when there is a hint of a church bell in the distance,
When, unbidden, you half remember a bit of Scripture.
And a deep but vague hunger plants itself at the edge of awareness.
You feel it when it's Sunday morning and you are restless,
When you grasp life's emptiness but know that is not all,
When you are afraid, or sad, or too tired,
And that deep but vague hunger causes a restless stirring.,,

Click here for the rest of the [poem by Bishop David Lawson](#).

Pastor Jenny's conclusion:

We can find a banquet table here / for us and many more, with our needs and wants.

Allow the hunger to be in you

Go in peace knowing that God asks us to move from

Our "Me's" to our "We's" with God and one another

(these notes are my personal ones, based on listening. They have not yet been approved or vetted by the pastor. B.F. Fox)