

Friends

Last week my family and I got Chinese food one night for dinner. As I always like to do when I get Chinese food, before I had anything else, I ate a fortune cookie (not because I like the actual cookie, but because I always enjoy looking at the supposed fortunes that they contain). This particular fortune cookie promised "You will never go hungry."

After reading the fortune, I realized that this was probably right. It's unlikely that I will ever have to go hungry in my life. Luckily, my family has a stable income and money in savings, so putting food on the table is not a pressing concern. Indeed, the fact that I was eating a nice meal from a Chinese restaurant in the first place shows how blessed I am. It quickly dawned on me, though, that others aren't as lucky.

Indeed, many people will go hungry, even tonight. Many people right now, in this very moment, don't know if they'll be able to eat tonight. Indeed, the Christian organization World Vision estimates that nearly 700 million people will go to bed on an empty stomach tonight. That is more than twice the population of the United States.

In many places around the world, people have few options. In many areas, crops will not grow. And approximately 2.6 billion people--nearly a third of the world's population--lives on less than \$2 a day, making it almost impossible to be able to buy food. Elsewhere, criminals will take away anything that a person earns instantly.

In our country, we are blessed. While we do have challenges with some going hungry, we are lucky to have many food pantries--like at our church-- that are able to help folks in need. But not everyone, most especially in other countries, has that option.

As you eat tonight, I invite you to appreciate the food that you have in front of you. I also invite you to pray for those who are not as blessed as you, and always be thinking of ways you can help them. Indeed, this is part of our Christian calling. For as Proverbs 22:9 says, "The generous will themselves be blessed, for they share their food with the poor." Let us all commit to that.

On the journey with you,
Pastor Jordan