

# Luke 15:16

Authorized King James Version (KJV)

And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.

## Analysis

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**And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat** (καὶ ἐπεθύμει χορτασθῆναι ἐκ τῶν κερατίων ὡν ἥσθιον οἱ χοῖροι, kai epethymei chortasthēnai ek tōn keratiōn hōn ēsthion hoi choiroi)—The verb epithymeō (ἐπιθυμέω, to desire strongly) indicates intense craving. He 'desired to be satisfied' (chortasthēnai, χορτασθῆναι) with carob pods (keratia, κεράτια), animal fodder. This images humanity's spiritual starvation: attempting to satisfy soul-hunger with what is fit only for beasts.

**And no man gave unto him** (καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδίδου αὐτῷ, kai oudeis edidou autō)—The imperfect tense 'was giving' shows continuous refusal. The world that seemed so attractive during rebellion now withholds even survival-level charity. This is the bankruptcy of the far country: it takes everything and gives nothing. Yet this destitution becomes the crisis of grace—only when cisterns fail do we return to the fountain (Jeremiah 2:13).

## Historical Context

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Carob pods (κεράτια, keratia) were edible but considered animal food, eaten by humans only in extreme famine. The long brown pods from the carob tree provided some nutrition but were fodder, not food. That no one gave him even these scraps shows his complete social abandonment. In Mediterranean culture, hospitality was sacred; refusing to feed even a destitute stranger was shocking. The son had

become less than human in his new society's eyes—not even worthy of animal feed. This is sin's destination.

## Related Passages

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**Romans 10:9** — Confession and belief for salvation

**John 3:16** — God's love and salvation

## Study Questions

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1. What 'husks'—inadequate substitutes for God—are you attempting to satisfy your soul with?
2. How does the experience of 'no one gave to him' reveal the bankruptcy of seeking life, meaning, and satisfaction apart from the Father?
3. In what ways is your current spiritual hunger actually God's severe mercy to make you dissatisfied with anything less than Himself?

## Interlinear Text

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καὶ ἐπεθύμει γεμίσαι τὴν κοιλίαν αὐτῷ ἀπὸ τῶν  
And he would fain have filled G3588 belly unto him with G3588  
G2532 G1937 G1072 G2836 G846 G575

κερατίων ὅν ἤσθιον οἱ χοῖροι καὶ οὐδεὶς ἐδίδου  
the husks that did eat G3588 the swine And no man gave  
G2769 G3739 G2068 G5519 G2532 G3762 G1325

αὐτῷ  
unto him  
G846

## Additional Cross-References

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**Isaiah 44:20** (Parallel theme): He feedeth on ashes: a deceived heart hath turned him aside, that he cannot deliver his soul, nor say, Is there not a lie in my right hand?

**Psalms 142:4** (Parallel theme): I looked on my right hand, and beheld, but there was no man that would know me: refuge failed me; no man cared for my soul.

**Lamentations 4:5** (Parallel theme): They that did feed delicately are desolate in the streets: they that were brought up in scarlet embrace dunghills.

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