Sermon:

Blessed To Be A Blessing

“And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing.” .... Genesis 12:2

We are blessed to be a blessing! The above scripture makes it clear. Abraham was blessed by God to be a blessing to others. But before we can bless others, we have to be living the blessed life ourselves because we can’t give away what we don't have. How can we tap into God's blessings for us? Is there something we need to do to get God to bless us? Ephesians 1:3 says: “Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who hath blessed us with all spiritual blessings in heavenly places in Christ.” We are already blessed! This is past tense.

If we are already blessed then why are so many people struggling? Because they don't know what's really available to them; and even if they were told about the blessings, they just don’t think that life could be that good. This is unbelief. If we really believed, for example, that as we give, it would be given unto us good measure pressed down and shaken together, and then gave; if we really believed that what we say is what we will have, and then speak right; if we really believed it’s important to forgive and not be offended, and then forgive; if we really believed God is good, then we could freely receive the blessings He is already pouring out. It's important we live the blessed life so we can help others.

Ephesians 4:28: “Let him that stole, steal no more: but rather let him labour, working with his hands the thing which is good, that he may have to give to him that needeth.” That's the purpose of the blessing.

In Matthew Chapter 25, verses 31-40 Jesus talks about the shepherd dividing his sheep from the goats. “Then shall the King say unto them on his right hand (sheep), Come, ye blessed of my Father, inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world: For I was an hungered, and ye gave me meat: I was thirsty, and ye gave me drink: I was a stranger, and ye took me in: Naked, and ye clothed me: I was sick, and ye visited me: I was in prison, and ye came unto me.”

Jesus called these sheep “blessed.” They were not only blessed standing before Him, but they were blessed in their life on earth. They believed they were blessed and actually lived blessed!

So what did they do with what they had? They didn't keep it all for themselves. They understood that their blessings were meant for others. They understood God’s heart. They fed those who were hungry; they gave drink to those who were thirsty; they gave shelter to the homeless; they clothed the naked; they visited the sick and visited those in prison. What these people had, they did not just keep for themselves.
If you’re blessed and you know it, then you can’t help but bless others; it’s easy. The more you bless others, the more you want to bless others. Let’s take a look at the goats. During their life on earth they saw people who were hungry and thirsty; they saw people who needed clothing and homes; they knew of those in prison and of those who were sick, but they did nothing. These are the greedy ones who kept everything they had to themselves.

But notice how important blessing others is to Jesus: Verse 40 says: “Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of these, my brethren, ye have done it unto Me.” WOW! Whatever good we do to others, we are doing it to Jesus Himself! The reverse is just as true. Verse 45 says: “Inasmuch as ye did it NOT unto the least of these, ye did it NOT to me.”

Jesus is saying what you do, or don’t do to others, you do, or don’t do to Him, or the way you treat others is the way you treat Him. Jesus takes blessing others very seriously and personally.

Some may say they just don’t have much. But everyone has something. There is always something we can do or give, even if we have little.

In Luke, Chapter 21, Verses 2-5, Jesus commends a poor widow: “Looking up, (Jesus) saw the rich people putting their gifts into the treasury. And He saw also a poor widow putting in two mites (copper coins). And He said, Truly I say to you, this poor widow has put in more than all of them; For they all gave out of their abundance (their surplus); but she has contributed out of her lack and her want, putting in all that she had on which to live.” He saw her giving as more than all the rich people combined! Why? Because it was a sacrifice on her part. It was a trust issue with God. She blessed Jesus with what she had, even if it was just two pennies. This should be an encouragement to us that whatever we give, big or small, just give it cheerfully and God considers it great!

I worked at a church for 12 years, but started out as a volunteer. As time went on, I was doing more and more work, so I began receiving a yearly love offering from the church. Every year they raised it a bit, but the type of work I was doing, along with the hours I put in, did not match up with the check I received. At one point I was doing full time work, so they gave me a decent yearly salary, but still not the going rate for this kind of work. But what did I do during that entire time? I gave. I gave from the beginning. Anyone I could bless, I blessed. I noticed as time went on that I began to get decent raises. After a while my salary did match the job description I had.

I remembered the scripture in 2 Corinthians 9:10 which says that God gives seed to the sower. He will get money TO you because He can get it THROUGH you! He will give it back to you because He knows He can trust you to give it out again! Even if you start out small and give from your lack, He will increase it back to you. Then you will be at the place we all should be: where it doesn’t have to be a sacrifice any longer, but where you have so much, you just keep blessing. Luke 6:38 says: “Give and it shall be given unto you, good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over.”

The neat thing about God is that He wants us to bless others, not only for them, but for us. As we give, we get. And the more we give, the more we get. If we give of our time, we will have so much time on our hands we won’t know what to do with it. Same with our resources. We are supposed to operate like distribution centers. The money comes in; the money goes out; more money comes in; more money goes out!
Everyone wins this way. People's needs are met, we become prosperous, and God gets the glory which He deserves!

A word of encouragement: There may be times when we grow weary of blessing others. Over a course of three years I poured my time and resources into the life of a mom and her son. I grew weary and disappointed at one point because I had given her money to buy herself a Thanksgiving dinner. I found out later that she never bought a meal but bought Christmas gifts for children in Columbia who she really had a heart for. I asked the Lord about it and here is what He said to me: “Do you have a problem helping the children in Columbia?” That got my attention and changed my entire attitude. If that would have happened again (it did not) it would not have bothered me at all. I love helping the children in Columbia. “And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.” Galatians 6:9

God promises to make His grace abound toward us so that we will have all sufficiency in all things so that we may abound to every good work. (2 Corinthians 9:8) Every good work means that we will never be unable to give to any good cause! We are blessed to be a blessing. Amen!