Blessed to Be a Blessing

Genesis 12:2-3 / Luke 6:20-26

10/16/22

Testimonies?

In Genesis 12 God tells Abraham that he will be blessed so that he can be a blessing to all. This is the beginning of a bigger blessing that will be to all humanity. We can see the full expression of this blessing in the person of Jesus Christ. In Christ we find a Priest, a Prophet, and a King. Unlike the Old Testament prophets who faced the people when speaking for God, the Old Testament priests faced God and had their backs to the people. Like the prophet, the priest was a spokesman, but he spoke for the people rather than to them. We also find a King that unlike human kings is incorruptible. Christ is the perfect King, the perfect Prophet, and the perfect Priest. He is the biggest blessing we as humans can have.

As cliché as it sounds the famous phrase from spiderman, “Great power comes with great responsibility”, perfectly applies here. We are given by grace a blessing that cannot be bought, but it also comes with a responsibility. So, an honest question to ask is, are we sharing this blessing?

We are blessed to be a blessing to all nations, tribes, and tongues. To those around us, to those in need, and to those who may be asking for help without noise. But are we like the Israelites, when we decide not to share this blessing we are given.

There is a question asked by unbelievers that really confronts me. “If you believe this to be true, why don’t you preach it as though it were true?” The answer to that question probably confronts me and saddens me more that the question itself.

Take a moment to think about the last time you were happy?

* The last time when you truly felt blessed. The last time you felt truly comforted in your misery or your pain. Dwell in that moment of happiness, comfort, and blessing.

Now take a moment to think about the last time you truly made someone else happy.

* The last time you were a blessing in someone’s cursed time, or truly comforted someone in their deep pain and despair. Dwell in that moment of compassion and consolation.

In a Grammy’s Award Show two of the biggest music Icons were honored: Dolly Parton and Diana Ross. They sang Diana Ross’s song “Reach out and touch Somebody's hand

Look at the words of the song:

“Reach out and touch Somebody's hand”

*“Reach out and touch somebody’s hand. Make this world a better place If you can…. Take a little time out of your busy day to give encouragement. To someone who's lost the way. Try a little kindness you'll see. It's something that comes very naturally. We can change things if we start giving. Why don't you reach out and touch somebody's hand. Make this world a better place If you can”*

When Jesus was surrounded by many people, who wanted to get close to him, listen to him and feel his presence, he looked at them and saw how the struggles of humanity was embodied in the many different people around him:

* there were poor people
  + poor in status and power, but even more poor in spirit.
* there were hungry people
  + starving for daily bread, daily comfort, and hope.
* there were weeping grieving people
  + people who mourned their loss and cried out their pain, but also longed for a hope and a faith transcending this life and this pain.
* there were the people who felt like outcast and outsiders
  + who were not welcome or well seen, and who longed to be welcomed, seen, and loved.

They were the ones Jesus looked at first with his compassionate eyes and he blessed them all

* He blessed all the ones who felt far from blessed.
* He blessed all those who felt their lives were cursed and miserable.
* All those who had no hope but only tears of loss and hunger for love.

Jesus saw them, blessed them, and comforted them with words and promises of fulfillment, comfort, laughter, and joy. Jesus was literally reaching out to those who most often was turned away, silenced, or neglected. He saw people for real and blessed them.

Jesus also looked beyond those, and saw the rich, the fulfilled, the laughing and blessed

* Those who kept their blessings to them self,
* Those who kept their bread on their table
* Those who closed their gates
* Those who laughed in the face of the misery of others.

Jesus looked and saw those who did not care, who did feel better, who did find their happiness in personal procession, personal safety, personal joy, and personal fulfillment. Those who did not know how to be a blessing in the world – those who should know better.

“Reach out and touch somebody’s hand, make this world a better place if you can…” This is not simple naïve pop song; this is a reflection of Christ and Christianity.

**Closing:**

What makes us happy – truly happy? Recall the moments at the beginning of the sermon: the moment when you felt truly blessed and the moment when you felt like a blessing to somebody else?

* Is that where we find true happiness and meaning and purpose?
* It that where we find Jesus? Is that where Jesus is pointing at?

It is strong and personal. God looks at me and you. He looks at those who have received his Son and shines down upon us as He sends us into the world with this blessing marked on our hearts. We are seen as blessed and loved.

As we receive these blessings from our Father, as we let His words shower us with His promises, comfort and strength, we must be a blessing to others.

Child of God...God has blessed you. Count your blessings. But don’t stop there. You are blessed to be a blessing. God’s intention is that all the nations of the earth should be blessed by the actions of God’s people. Let’s keep it close to home...God’s intention is that anyone you come in contact with should be blessed by your actions. Whether that’s a smile, a hug, a word of encouragement, a cup of coffee, money for gas, or standing by them to be a rock for the in their storm.

God is working the salvation of the world through us. It’s our job to be like Christ and be someone’s blessing and Christ has blessed us. The Jews were not chosen by God for special privilege, but for special service. It is the same for Christians and for anybody else who receives God’s blessing. Don’t hoard it…spread it. Don’t pay it back, pay it forward. For every material blessing you have received, for the gift of talent or health or land or a kind and loving spirit…whatever it is, you were given that blessing in order that you might use it to bless others.

What is God expecting of you and your blessing in order to bless?