A Blessed Life (12-30-2018)

Introduction: The outline of this sermon is based on the structure of "Life of the Beloved" by Henri Nouwen

Matthew 26:26 (ESV)
Now as they were eating, Jesus **took** bread, and after **blessing** it **broke** it and **gave** it to the disciples, and said, "Take, eat; this is my body."

1) **Our blessed life in Jesus**

   a. **We are Chosen –** "Jesus **Took** the Bread"

      Took: Chosen, picked, claimed as one's own

   b. **We are Blessed** (Matthew) – "Jesus **Blessed** the Bread"

      Blessed: (eulogy), to praise, consecrate with prayers, to cause to prosper, bestow blessings

A different word used in Luke's gospel account . . .

Luke 22:19 (ESV)
And he **took** bread, and when he had **given thanks**, he **broke** it and **gave** it to them, saying, "This is my body, which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me."

***Gave Thanks**: (eucharisteo) to be grateful, thankful, to express gratitude

We are **Chosen** and **Blessed**; therefore we can be **Grateful**.

   c. **We are Broken –** "Jesus Broke the Bread"

      Broke: Used in the NT always in breaking bread . . . Feeding multitudes, communion, etc.

      Being broken is common to all of us . . .

      - We have communion with God,
      - Community with each other, and now because of Jesus . . .
      - We have something to offer . . .

   d. **We are Givers** – "Jesus Gave them the Bread"

      Gave: really straight forward – it means to give!

Gratitude & Giving are the keys to living a Broken life that becomes a Blessed life. This invites Jesus to redeem!

2) **Jesus is the Bread of Life**

- Jesus was the chosen King – who chose to lay down His life to redeem yours.
- Jesus was blessed (at His baptism) & became a curse (on the cross) for us.
- Jesus was broken, so we could be put back together
- Jesus was given, so we could be received into His eternal family

Because Jesus was chosen, blessed (and cursed), broken, & given – we can live a blessed life in Him!

3) **See Jesus along the way**

The meal after the journey on the road to Emmaus . . .

Luke 24:30-31 (ESV)
When he was at table with them, he **took** the bread and **blessed** and **broke** it and **gave** it to them. And their eyes were opened, and they recognized him. And he vanished from their sight.

When we walk the road with Jesus and invite Him to our table, then we can see Him working in our lives!