

“Jesus the Blessor (Part 2)”

Summary

What does it truly mean to live under the blessing of God? This message takes us deep into one of the most remarkable miracles recorded in all four Gospels — the feeding of the multitude — and unpacks why this single event received more attention from the Gospel writers than any other miracle Jesus performed. At the heart of this story is a simple but staggering truth: the meeting of a need is not determined by the supply we have in hand, but by the blessing of God resting upon that supply. Five loaves and two fish from a child's lunch became a feast for thousands. The lesson is not lost on us — we are often tempted to assess what God can do based on what we can see, count, or afford. But the miracle invites us to look upward, just as Jesus did, before we look at what is in our hands. Three words from the account in Matthew 14 become a framework for understanding how God moves through us: blessed, broke, and gave. These are not just actions Jesus performed that day on a hillside — they are a pattern for how we are called to live. When we allow ourselves to be broken of self-sufficiency and self-reliance, when we cultivate gratitude even for the little we have, and when we open our hands in generosity, we position ourselves to participate in the miraculous. This message challenges us to stop living as though we are the source and start living as branches connected to the vine, bearing fruit not for ourselves but for the world around us.

Small Group Study Guide – Jesus the Blessor (Part 2)

Overview

This guide is based on a sermon exploring what it means to live as a blessed and blessing people. Drawing from the miracle of the feeding of the multitude, the sermon unpacks three key realities: the realization that everything in God's work hinges on his blessing, the requirement of brokenness, and the release that comes through a lifestyle of giving. Use this guide to go deeper as a group into these truths.

Key Takeaways

- **The blessing of God is the foundation of fruitfulness.** Proverbs 10:22 reminds us that true richness comes from the Lord's blessing, not from human effort or resources alone.

- **Gratitude is a key to multiplication.** Before Jesus fed the multitude, he gave thanks for what little was available. Thanksgiving is not just a response to abundance; it is a posture that invites it.
 - **The three actions of Jesus: blessed, broke, and gave.** These three words describe not only what Jesus did with the loaves but also the pattern of a life surrendered to God.
 - **Open hands mean open heavens.** Generosity is not merely a financial principle; it is a spiritual posture that aligns us with who God is and how he works.
 - **We are branches, not vines.** Our identity is rooted in Jesus. The fruit we bear is not for ourselves but for others.
 - **Unity creates the conditions for commanded blessing.** Psalm 133 connects the dwelling together of brothers and sisters in unity with the Lord commanding his blessing.
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Discussion Questions

Opening

1. When you hear the word "blessing," what is the first thing that comes to mind? How has your understanding of blessing changed over time?
 2. The sermon opened with the declaration: "This is the day, this is the season of multiplication." What would it look like for you personally to live with that kind of expectation right now?
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The Realization: Everything Hinges on God's Blessing

3. The sermon stated that the feeding of the multitude teaches us that the meeting of a need is not dependent on the supply in hand, but on the blessing of the Lord resting upon the supply. Can you think of a time in your own life when God's blessing made up the difference between what you had and what was needed?
 4. The feeding of the 5,000 is the only miracle of Jesus recorded in all four Gospels. Why do you think God placed such emphasis on this particular sign? What is it meant to reveal about who Jesus is?
 5. Jesus looked up to heaven before he blessed the loaves. He was not focused on the scarcity in front of him. How do we practically cultivate that same upward focus in our daily lives?
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The Requirement: Brokenness

6. The sermon suggested that without brokenness, we tend toward self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and self-centeredness. Do you agree? What does brokenness look like in a person's life, and why is it necessary for blessing to flow through us?

7. The miracle of multiplication did not happen in Jesus' hands. It happened in the disciples' hands as they broke and distributed the bread. What does that tell us about the role of ordinary people in God's extraordinary work?
 8. The sermon referenced Malachi 3 and the idea that closed hands can limit the flow of God's blessing. This can be a challenging topic. How does your group approach the subject of tithing and generosity in a way that is rooted in love rather than obligation or guilt?
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The Release: A Lifestyle of Giving

9. The sermon made the observation that everything God made gives: the sun, the moon, the trees, the soil, the animals. In what ways does this shape how you think about your own purpose as someone made in God's image?
 10. John 15:5 describes believers as branches connected to the vine. The fruit a branch bears is not for itself but for others. Where in your life are you currently bearing fruit for someone else? Where might God be calling you to bear more?
 11. The sermon pointed to unity as a condition for commanded blessing, drawing from Psalm 133. What are some practical ways your small group or church community can cultivate genuine unity rather than just the appearance of it?
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Looking Ahead

12. The sermon closed with a vision for revival, not something to read about in history books, but something to experience firsthand in this community. What would it take for your group, your church, and your neighborhood to become a place where that kind of outpouring happens?
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Practical Applications

Choose one or more of the following to practice individually or as a group before your next meeting:

- **Practice upward focus.** Each morning this week, before you assess what you lack, take five minutes to give thanks for what you have. Keep a simple list and bring it to share with the group next time.
- **Identify where you are a branch bearing fruit.** Write down one or two people in your life who are receiving something from you, whether encouragement, time, resources, or prayer. Commit to being intentional about that investment this week.
- **Examine your posture toward giving.** Prayerfully reflect on whether your hands are open or closed. This is not about guilt but about honest conversation with God. Ask him to show you one step you can take toward greater generosity.

- **Pursue unity.** Think of someone in your church or group with whom you have experienced tension or distance. Take one small step toward reconciliation or connection this week.
- **Pray for your community.** Spend time as a group praying specifically for Nassau County, for the people around your church, and for God's blessing to flow outward from your congregation into the surrounding area.

Closing Prayer

Close your time together by reading aloud the blessing from Numbers 6:24-26, allowing each phrase to settle over the group as a declaration and a prayer. Then pray together for the blessing of God to rest on each person, on your church, and on your community, asking that you would not only receive that blessing but become carriers of it to everyone around you.

Main Points – Jesus the Blessor (Part 2)

Jesus the Blessor: Compassion, Brokenness, and the Miracle of Multiplication

Sermon Summary:

This sermon centers on the nature of God as a blessor and the calling of his people to be conduits of that blessing. Drawing primarily from the miracle of the feeding of the multitude, Dr. Wyns unpacks how Jesus demonstrated compassion, thanksgiving, blessing, brokenness, and generosity as keys to supernatural multiplication. The sermon challenges believers to move beyond self-sufficiency and dead works, embracing a lifestyle of open-handed giving rooted in love and faith. Dr. Wyns affirms that the congregation is a house of blessing, called to feed a spiritually hungry community, and declares that this is a season of multiplication and outpoured blessing for Nassau County and beyond.

Key Points:

- The blessing of God is the foundation of all fruitfulness and success in God's work, and everything in ministry hinges upon it rather than on human resources or capacity
- Jesus demonstrated five key actions in the feeding of the multitude that serve as a model for believers: compassion, thanksgiving, blessing, breaking, and giving
- Compassion and thanksgiving, even for what seems insufficient, are essential keys that unlock multiplication
- Brokenness is a requirement for experiencing the full measure of God's blessing, as it dismantles self-sufficiency, selfishness, and self-reliance
- Open hands produce open heavens, and generosity is one of the most powerful ways to release miracles and experience the blessing of God
- Unity within the body of Christ is a prerequisite for God's commanded blessing, as seen in Psalm 133
- Believers are branches whose fruit is not for themselves but for others, and living to give is the natural expression of the life of Jesus flowing through them
- This is a declared season of multiplication, and the congregation should expect to see God work miracles in their community
- The blessing of God has no expiry date, and his people should never assess his ability to work based on their own limited capacity

Scripture Reference:

- Proverbs 10:22, which declares that the blessing of the Lord produces true wealth without sorrow accompanying it
- Matthew 14:17-20, the account of the feeding of the five thousand, in which Jesus took five loaves and two fish, looked up to heaven, blessed and broke them, and distributed them through the disciples to a multitude that was fully satisfied
- Matthew 15:32, in which Jesus expresses compassion for the hungry multitude that had been with him three days

- John 6:11, 35, 41, 48, where Jesus gives thanks, distributes the loaves, and declares himself to be the bread of life
- Numbers 6, the Aaronic blessing, in which God instructs Moses on how his people are to be blessed
- Malachi 3:8-10, in which God confronts his people for robbing him in tithes and offerings and promises to open the windows of heaven for those who bring the full tithe
- Psalm 133:1-3, which declares that where brothers dwell in unity, God commands the blessing
- John 15:5, in which Jesus identifies himself as the vine and his followers as branches, noting that apart from him nothing can be accomplished
- Ezekiel 34:26, which promises showers of blessing in their season
- Deuteronomy 28, which describes the comprehensive and overtaking nature of God's blessing upon those who obey his voice

Discussion Questions – Jesus the Blessor (Part 2)

The sermon describes the blessing of God in Proverbs 10:22 as making one rich while adding no sorrow -- in what areas of your life have you experienced a blessing that came without the burden or cost you might have expected?

Dr. Wyns draws a distinction between 'blessers' and 'blasters,' suggesting that our identity as God's people is fundamentally tied to blessing others -- how intentional are you about being a source of blessing in your community, and what might be holding you back?

Jesus looked up to heaven before blessing the loaves and fish, focusing not on the inadequacy of the supply but on the source of all provision -- in what situations do you find it most difficult to look up rather than fixating on what you lack?

The sermon presents three key words from the feeding of the multitude -- blessed, broke, and gave -- and suggests that brokenness is a necessary step between blessing and giving; how has a season of brokenness in your own life prepared you to be a greater blessing to others?

The miracle of the multiplication happened not in Jesus' hands but in the disciples' hands as they broke and distributed the bread -- what does this suggest about the role ordinary believers play in the outworking of God's miraculous provision?

Malachi 3 presents a direct connection between open hands in giving and open heavens in blessing -- do you genuinely believe that your generosity or lack thereof has a spiritual effect on the flow of God's blessing in your life, and why or why not?

The sermon emphasizes that everything God created -- the sun, trees, soil, animals -- gives by its very nature, and that humans who do not give are living contrary to their created purpose; how does this perspective challenge or reshape the way you think about generosity?

Dr. Wyns distinguishes between the 'prosperity gospel' and the 'poverty gospel,' suggesting that God's desire for his people to prosper is not merely for personal consumption but for distribution to others -- how does this balance of receiving and distributing shape your understanding of financial stewardship?

Unity is presented in the sermon as a prerequisite for commanded blessing, drawing from Psalm 133 -- where do you see disunity subtly undermining the flow of God's blessing in your church, family, or relationships, and what practical steps could restore that unity?

Dr. Wynn closes with a longing not to merely read about revival but to experience it firsthand in Nassau County -- what do you believe is the connection between a congregation's practice of compassion, thanksgiving, brokenness, and giving, and the kind of community-wide spiritual awakening the speaker envisions?

Scriptures – Jesus the Blessor (Part 2)

Explicitly Cited

- Proverbs 10:22
- Numbers 6:22-26
- 2 Samuel 9 (the account of Mephibosheth)
- Ezekiel 34:26
- Zechariah 8 (restoration and blessing)
- Psalm 103:1-7 (Bless the Lord, O my soul)
- Matthew 14:16-21 (feeding of the 5,000)
- Matthew 15:32 (Jesus' compassion on the multitude)
- Mark 6:30-44 (feeding of the 5,000)
- Luke 9:10-17 (feeding of the 5,000)
- John 6:4 (the feeding as a sign)
- John 6:11 (Jesus gave thanks)
- John 6:35, 41, 48 (I am the bread of life)
- John 15:5 (I am the vine, you are the branches)
- Psalm 133:1, 3 (unity and the commanded blessing)
- Psalm 23:6 (goodness and mercy following)
- Malachi 1-3 (general reference)
- Malachi 3:8-10 (robbing God in tithes and offerings)
- Deuteronomy 28:2-8 (blessings overtaking the obedient)
- Hosea 4:6 (my people are destroyed for lack of knowledge)
- John 3:16 (God so loved the world that he gave)
- Hebrews 13:8 (Jesus Christ the same yesterday, today, and forever)

Devotional – Jesus the Blessor (Part 2)

Day 1: The Blessing That Overtakes You

Reading: Proverbs 10:22; Deuteronomy 28:1-8

Devotional: God's blessing is not passive. It is active, pursuing, and relentless. Proverbs 10:22 declares that the Lord's blessing produces true wealth without sorrow attached to it.

Deuteronomy 28 describes a blessing so thorough it covers where you live, what you do, and how you move through life. The sermon reminds us that "all these blessings shall come upon you and overtake you." This is not a blessing you chase -- it is one that chases you. Reflect today on the areas of your life where you have been striving in your own strength. Surrender those areas and trust the God whose blessing has no expiration date.

Personal Reflection: In what areas of your life have you been relying on your own resources rather than trusting God's blessing to be sufficient?

Practical Application: Write down three specific blessings from the past week that you did not earn or manufacture on your own. Spend time in prayer expressing gratitude for each one.

Day 2: Compassion as a Key to Multiplication

Reading: Matthew 15:29-38; Matthew 14:13-21

Devotional: Before Jesus multiplied the loaves, he was moved with compassion. He did not see the crowd as a logistical problem. He saw hungry people and felt the weight of their need. The sermon points out that "even compassion is a key to multiplication." When we allow the heart of God to break over the needs around us, we position ourselves to participate in the miraculous. The disciples saw scarcity. Jesus saw an opportunity. What you carry in your hands may seem laughably insufficient, but when offered to Jesus with compassion and thanksgiving, it becomes the starting point of a miracle.

Personal Reflection: Who in your immediate circle is spiritually or practically hungry? Have you allowed their need to move you, or have you kept a safe emotional distance?

Practical Application: Identify one person whose need you have noticed but not yet responded to. Take one tangible step today -- a meal, a phone call, a word of encouragement -- and offer it as an act of compassion in Jesus' name.

Day 3: The Power of Thanksgiving in Small Things

Reading: John 6:1-14; Philippians 4:6-7; 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

Devotional: Before the miracle came, Jesus gave thanks. He did not wait for the abundance to arrive before expressing gratitude. He gave thanks for five loaves and two fish -- a child's lunch. The sermon challenges us directly: "No matter what your need may be, or how badly the circumstances are, take time with what you have to be thankful." Thanksgiving is not a response to blessing; it is a pathway to it. Philippians 4 confirms that when we bring our requests to God with thanksgiving, a peace that surpasses understanding stands guard over our hearts. Gratitude is not denial of hardship. It is faith in action.

Personal Reflection: Are you in the habit of giving thanks only when circumstances improve, or have you learned to give thanks in the middle of the need?

Practical Application: Before your next meal today, pause and genuinely thank God not only for the food but for five specific things in your life that you often overlook. Let thanksgiving become a daily discipline rather than an occasional response.

Day 4: Blessed, Broken, and Given

Reading: Matthew 14:19; John 12:24; 2 Corinthians 4:7-12

Devotional: The sermon identifies three words that carry enormous spiritual weight: blessed, broke, and gave. The miracle of the feeding of the multitude did not happen in Jesus' hands alone. It happened as the broken bread was placed into the hands of the disciples and distributed. Brokenness is not a detour from God's purpose -- it is often the very road that leads to it. John 12:24 describes how a grain of wheat must fall into the ground and die before it bears much fruit. What God has blessed in your life, he may also need to break so that it can be multiplied and given to others.

Personal Reflection: Is there an area of your life where God has allowed brokenness that you have resisted or resented? Could that breaking be preparation for greater fruitfulness?

Practical Application: Spend fifteen minutes in quiet prayer, releasing to God one area of brokenness or loss you have been carrying. Ask him to show you how he intends to use it for the benefit of others.

Day 5: Living to Give -- The Identity of a Branch

Reading: John 15:1-8; 2 Corinthians 9:6-8; Psalm 133:1-3

Devotional: The sermon draws a vivid picture from John 15 -- you are a branch. A branch does not consume its own fruit. It bears fruit for others. The life of Jesus flowing through you is not meant to terminate with you. It is meant to overflow. Psalm 133 connects unity with commanded blessing, reminding us that when God's people flow together in love and generosity, the blessing is not merely invited -- it is commanded. The sermon declares plainly: "I live to give." This is not a personality trait. It is the identity of every person genuinely connected to the vine. Open hands, the sermon teaches, mean open heavens.

Personal Reflection: Do you see yourself primarily as a receiver of God's blessing or as a conduit of it? What would change in your daily life if you embraced the identity of a branch that lives to give?

Practical Application: This week, make one intentional act of generosity that stretches you -- financially, relationally, or in time. Do it quietly, without announcement, and watch how God honors the open hand.