

Be the Blessing



Sermon Notes

- Being the Blessing is how we accomplish our mission. (Matthew 5:14-16)
- Being the Blessing sets you up for the next life. (1 Timothy 6:17-19)
- Being the Blessing enables us to live the best life now. (1 Timothy 6:19)
- Being the Blessing is a big part of your purpose in this life. (Ephesians 2:10)
- Being the Blessing is the reason we are blessed. (Genesis 12:1-3)
- Being the Blessing is the pathway to the blessed life. (Proverbs 11:25, Luke 6:38)
- Being the Blessing makes us more like God. (John 3:16)
- Being the Blessing makes God happy. (Hebrews 13:16)

My Story

1. Looking back over your notes, what did you find most helpful, challenging, or interesting in this week's teaching? Was there anything you've never heard before or something that made you think differently?
2. Did you participate in one or more of the Be the Blessing projects last year? If so, how? How did participating impact you? If not, why not?
3. Did you take the concept of Be the Blessing further than the church projects? Have you intentionally cultivated Be the Blessing into your life as part of your walk outside of what we do at the church? If so, how?
4. How has your family's involvement in being the blessing impacted your family?
5. Do you have a personal mission? What is it? Does your family have a mission? What is it? If you don't have a mission spend some quiet time with God and craft one.

6. What is our church's mission? Take a couple of seconds to think and pray about the mission of our church. What is God putting on your mind?
7. How does being the blessing relate to the mission of our church?
8. Do you generally go with the crowd and the culture, or do you tend to go against the culture? How is being the blessing counter-cultural?

Digging Deeper

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read John 1:1-5, John 8:12, Matthew 5:14-16 and Matthew 6:1-4

1. When you read "light of the world," what does that make you think of? What does light do to darkness?
2. In John 8:12, Jesus said He is the light of the world, and whoever follows Him will never walk in darkness but will have the light of life. What does this mean? How has He proven this to be true in your life? Is there an area of your life full of darkness and needs light? How are you surrendering this dark area to Jesus so He can shine His light into it?
3. How is it that Jesus tells us that He is the light of the world, but He also says we are the light of the world? How can both be true? What does God's word tell us about how we are to be imitators of Christ?
4. How are you/can you be the light of the world?
5. How do you balance what Jesus tells us in Matthew 5:14-16 (to let others see our good deeds) with what He tells us just one chapter later in Matthew 6:1-4 (do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing so that your giving may be in secret)? Can both be true at the same time? How? How do you think the concept of humility plays into this? Talk this over with your Life Group.

Read 1 Timothy 6:17-19, Ephesians 2:10, Genesis 12:1-3, Proverbs 11:25, Luke 6:38, and Hebrews 13:16

1. How does being the blessing help you to live your best life now?
2. How does it prepare you and set you up for your eternal life?
3. How is being the blessing part of your purpose in life?
4. Do you think God blesses you when you bless others? What does scripture say about this?
5. Can you think of a time when you know God blessed you so you could bless someone else? What happened?
6. When you bless others, does it please God? Why do you answer this way?

Bringing It Home

1. Last week we asked you to consider contentment. What does it mean to be content? Are you content in your life? Why did you answer that way?
2. Are you helping people find and follow God? How? Is there something missing from what you're doing?
3. How are you blessing others with what God has first blessed you?
4. In what areas of your life would you consider yourself to be the blessing to others? Are there any areas of your life where you are not being a blessing to others but think you could be?
5. How has being involved in helping people find and follow God and being the blessing impacted your personal contentment? Can you think of any Bible verses that speak to how our service for others and sacrifice for them leads us to be more content?

6. Chris listed the projects for this year's Be The Blessing: Operation Christmas Child, Stuff the Truck, Mentoring at Madison School, Afterschool Program at Madison School, Volunteering with Vineyard Kids Church, and Feed My Sheep International Child Sponsorship. Spend some time thinking and praying about each of these. What is God putting on your heart? Will you be the blessing and help others find and follow God by volunteering to serve in one or more of these opportunities?
7. If God is putting something else on your heart as a way to be the blessing, what is it? Discuss it with your Life Group or family/friends (discussing it with others helps to make it real and to keep you accountable). What are you going to do with the nudge God is giving you?
8. It's Thanksgiving week – a time to intentionally be thankful for the blessings in our lives; what are the ways you have been blessed? How will you choose to be thankful this week? Make a list. How will you share your gratitude with those around you so others can also glorify your Father in heaven?
9. Read Philippians 4:4-9. It's hard to miss some of the craziness going on around us. However, God commands us again and again to not fear and to keep our eyes on Him instead of our crazy world. Can you give examples of how God has played this out in your life? Why do you think focusing on God is a better plan than being obsessed with what's happening in the world? What practical steps will you take with what you've read in these passages? How will you choose to focus on God and on serving others when it would be simpler to obsess over the "news" and hysteria we see around us?



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