

SEQUOIA NOTES

Today's Sequoia @10:10 Message...

Loving without Strings

With Ryan Dawson, Lead Pastor
November 1, 2020



- **We have been created with a built-in desire to love the world & bless people.**

Genesis 12:1-3 (NLT) The Lord had said to Abram, “Leave your native country, your relatives, and your father’s family, and go to the land that I will show you. ²I will make you into a great nation. I will bless you and make you famous, and you will be a blessing to others. ³I will bless those who bless you and curse those who treat you with contempt. All the families on earth will be blessed through you.”

“Biblical blessing is the tangible favour of a personal God who loves humankind and desires to offer his life to them.” Hugh Halter - Tangible Kingdom

- **Biblical blessing is best understood through the Hebrew term Shalom.**

Shalom = wholeness, completeness, soundness, health, safety and prosperity, right relationship with God and others, carrying with it the implication of permanence.

Isaiah 26:3-4 (NLT) “You will keep in perfect peace all who trust in you, all whose thoughts are fixed on you! ⁴Trust in the Lord always, for the Lord God is the eternal Rock.”

Isaiah 9:6-7 (NLT) For a child is born to us, a son is given to us. The government will rest on his shoulders. And he will be called: Wonderful Counsellor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace. ⁷His government and its peace will never end. He will rule with fairness and justice from the throne of his ancestor David for all eternity. The passionate commitment of the Lord of Heaven’s Armies will make this happen!

James 2:14-17 (NLT) What good is it, dear brothers and sisters, if you say you have faith but don’t show it by your actions? Can that kind of faith save anyone?¹⁵ Suppose you see a brother or sister who has no food or clothing, ¹⁶and you say, “Good-bye and have a good day; stay warm and eat well”—but then you don’t give that person any food or clothing. What good does that do? ¹⁷So you see, faith by itself isn’t enough. Unless it produces good deeds, it is dead and useless.

- **“Blessing” requires action.**

Mark 8:35 (NLT) “If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.”

Isaiah 61:1-3 (NLT) The Spirit of the Sovereign Lord is upon me, for the Lord has anointed me to bring good news to the poor. He has sent me to comfort the broken hearted and to proclaim that captives will be released and prisoners will be freed. ²He has sent me to tell those who mourn that the time of the Lord’s favour has come, and with it, the day of God’s anger against their enemies. ³To all who mourn in Israel, he will give a crown of beauty for ashes, a joyous blessing instead of mourning, festive praise instead of despair. In their righteousness, they will be like great oaks that the Lord has planted for his own glory.

Mark 8:34-35 (NLT) “Then, calling the crowd to join his disciples, he said, “If any of you wants to be my follower, you must give up your own way, take up your cross, and follow me. ³⁵If you try to hang on to your life, you will lose it. But if you give up your life for my sake and for the sake of the Good News, you will save it.”

- **The essence of Biblical blessing is that it is done with no strings attached.**

- **Loving without strings naturally draws people to God.**

Big Idea: Love without strings and watch God draw people in.

- 1) Receive God’s free gift of grace found in Jesus Christ.**

- 2) Extend blessing to others without strings and without expectation.**

This Week’s Missional Challenge: Create a winter survival kit for Ottawa Inner City Ministries.

The Translation of the Bible Scriptures used in today’s 10:10 service is from the New Living Translation (NLT).



Sequoia Impact Communities are where we live out our identity as a Family of Servants on Mission.
 To get plugged in email:
impactcommunities@sequoiachurch.org

Loving without Strings
#5 of 10 - November 1, 2020

- 1) Which “promise” from the 100 Days of Impact was most significant for you this week and why? Did you have an opportunity to do this week’s Missional Challenge? How did that go?
- 2) How did the message resonate with you? What questions or comments did it raise for you?
- 3) Read Genesis 12:1-3. What promise does God make to Abram? In what ways are we an extension of this promise? What implications does this have for us today?
- 4) Read Isaiah 26:3-4 and Isaiah 9:6-7. What do these passages reveal about peace (shalom) and where it is found? Describe what it would look like if shalom came to your neighbourhood.
- 5) Read James 2:14-17. Why does “Blessing” require action? What implications does this have for us in our Impact Communities and families?
- 6) Read Mark 8:34-35. What is Jesus telling us about being a disciple? What does it mean for us to “give up our own way, take our cross, and follow Jesus”? How is this connected to “loving without strings”?
- 7) Read Isaiah 61:1-3 and Luke 4:14-21. Why does Jesus quote this OT passage to inaugurate his ministry? How does Jesus model “loving without strings” and how does this motivate us to surrender to His loving leadership? How does Isaiah 61:1-3 describe the mission of the church?

What action steps is God asking you to take today?

How do you need to receive God’s free gift of grace found in Jesus Christ?

How will you extend blessing to others without strings and without expectation?

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