

07-17-2022, COTR Texarkana

Title: Mentor Me Jabez

Purpose: Provoke people to embrace the mentoring lessons from Jabez to escape a life of pain and live a life blessed by God.

Truth for Today: God can help us find freedom from our pain and experience God's blessing and prosperity.

Text: I Chronicles 4:9-10

Topic: Jabez, Prayer, Blessing, Prosperity, Pain

Series Title: Series Mentor Me

Series Purpose: Provoke people to learn and apply life lessons, good and bad, from Biblical characters.

Mentor Me Jabez

I. Introduction

A. Text, context genealogy, [1 Chron. 4:9–10 (ESV) **Jabez** was more honorable (*NCV respected*) than his brothers; and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, “Because I bore him in pain.” 10 Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that you would bless me and enlarge my border, and that your hand might be with me, and that you would keep me from harm (*evil*) so that it might not bring me pain!” And God granted what he asked.]

B. Today we'll continue the series, 'Mentor Me' and be mentored by Jabez. He's only mentioned 1 time in the Bible, but his message is profound. He'll show us how to escape a life of pain and experience God's blessing.

C. Title: Mentor Me Jabez

D. Truth for Today: God can help us find freedom from our pain and experience God's blessing and prosperity.

II. Mentoring lesson #1: Emotional pain can shape our outlook on life.

A. [Vs. 9 his mother called his name **Jabez**, saying, “Because I bore him in **pain**.” Vs. 10 keep me from harm (*evil*) so that it might not bring me **pain!**] Jabez's name derives from a painful childbirth.² His name meant pain, hurt, and sorrow.³ In Hebrew names had significance. E.g., Jacob and Rachael, [Genesis 35:16–18 (ESV)...Rachel went into labor, and she had hard labor. 17...the midwife said to her, “Do not fear, for you have another son.” 18 And as...she was dying, **she called his name Ben-oni (son of my sorrow); but his father called him Benjamin (son of my right hand).**]

1. Jabez means 'son of sorrow'. People believed that the name represents what the person will become. There was a fear that evil and pain would

follow Jabez.⁵ Every time Jabez heard his name he was reminded or programmed with pain, sorrow, and hurt. E.g., Johnny Cash, ‘Boy named Sue’. Me ‘little John’.

2. However, God changed his pain to prosperity. Jewish historians say he became a doctor in the law, whose reputation drew so many scribes around him that a town was called by his name (1 Ch 2:55)⁶

B. Jabez is a great mentor because everyone has pain, hurt, and sorrow that can define us, e.g., failure, rejection, bad grades in school, name calling, a divorce, fired from a job, bankruptcy, etc. but Jabez overcame the pain and prospered. So can we.

III. Mentoring lesson #2: God can heal us from the pain in our soul.

A. [Vs. 10 Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, “Oh that you would bless me...and that you would **keep me from harm (evil) so that it might not bring me pain!**” **And God granted what he asked.**] This is a message of hope that God can heal our pain and wounded soul. God did the same for Joseph, [Ge. 41:50–52 (NIV) Before the years of famine came, two sons were born to Joseph...⁵¹ Joseph named his firstborn Manasseh and said, “It is because **God has made me forget all my trouble and all my father’s household.**” ⁵² The second son he named Ephraim and said, “It is because **God has made me fruitful in the land of my suffering.**”]

1. Like Jabez, Joseph knew a life of emotional pain for 20 years. He was rejected by his brothers and sold into slavery. He felt alone, abandoned, and probably lived with the torment of why God allowed it. God supernaturally healed him.

B. Pray: something painful from your past defines you and you want prayer for God to help you be free and overcome the pain.

IV. Mentoring lesson #3: Biblical character is the foundation of God’s blessing.

A. [Vs. 9 Jabez was more **honorable (NCV respected)** than his brothers;] Honorable and respected refer to his character. Def.: A person’s qualities and habits; the internal values/ ethics that determine our behavior. Jabez had Biblical character and he stood out from his brothers and God smiled on him.

B. Contrast Biblical character and sinful character: [Galatians 5:19–23 (NLT) When you follow **the desires of your sinful nature**, the results are very clear: sexual immorality, impurity, lustful pleasures, 20 idolatry, sorcery, hostility, quarreling, jealousy, outbursts of anger, selfish ambition,

dissension, division, 21 envy, drunkenness, wild parties, and other sins like these...22 But **the Holy Spirit produces this kind of fruit in our lives:** love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, 23 gentleness, and self-control.] Our character flows from our heart. If we start living by the Bible and following the Spirit, our heart will change and we'll have godly character like Jabez, and God will bless us.

V. Mentoring lesson #4: Gods' blessing includes material and financial prosperity

A. [Vs 10 Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying, "Oh that you would **bless me and enlarge my border** (*NLT expand my territory*) (NCV) "**Please do good things for me and give me more land.**] Def. bless: to bestow goodness or favor.⁴

1. God's blessing includes material and financial prosperity. Jabez shows us it's ok to ask God to bless us with the good things of life. [3 John 2 (ESV) Beloved, **I pray that all may go well with you** (*NKJV prosper in all things*) and that you may be in good health, as it goes well with your soul.] However, when God blesses us, let's be good steward's and never love money more than God. If we let greed and materialism enter our life our blessing will become a curse.

B. Biblical principles to get us in position for God's blessing.

1. Obey the Lord: [Deut. 28:2–14 (NLT) **You will experience all these blessings if you obey the Lord your God:** 3 Your towns and your fields will be blessed. 4 Your children and your crops will be blessed. ...6 Wherever you go and whatever you do, you will be blessed. 7 "The Lord will conquer your enemies when they attack you...8 "**The Lord will guarantee a blessing on everything you do...**9 "**If you obey the commands of the Lord your God and walk in his ways...**]

2. Forgive, restore relationships, and promote unity. [Job 42:10–12 (NLT) **When Job prayed for his friends, the Lord restored his fortunes.** In fact, the Lord gave him twice as much as before...]

3. Hard work done with excellence, [Proverbs 13:4 (NLT) Lazy people want much but get little, but those who work hard will prosper. Proverbs 22:29 (MSG) Observe people who are **good at their work**— skilled workers are always in demand and admired...]

4. Giving to the Lord's work: [Proverbs 3:9–10 (NIV) **Honor the Lord with your wealth...10 then your barns will be filled to overflowing...**], i.e. tithes and offerings. Context offering for Jews in a

famine, [2 Cor. 9:6–8 (NLT)...a farmer who plants only a few seeds will get a small crop. But the one who **plants generously will get a generous crop.** 7 You must each decide in your **heart** how much to give. And don't give reluctantly or in response to pressure. "For God loves a person who gives cheerfully." 8 And **God will generously provide all you need.** Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others.]

5. Give to the poor: [Proverbs 22:9 (NIV) The generous will themselves be blessed, for **they share their food with the poor.**]
6. Exercise faith to follow the Lord: [Ge. 26:1–13 (NLT) A **severe famine** now struck the land...2 The Lord appeared to Isaac and said, "**Do not go down to Egypt, but do as I tell you. 3 Live here...and I will be with you and bless you...**12 When Isaac planted his crops that year, **he harvested a hundred times more grain than he planted,** for the **Lord blessed him.** 13 He became a very rich man, and his wealth continued to grow.] God can make His people wealthy in a famine or a recession if we do what He says.

VI. Mentoring lesson #5: Satan wants to steal our blessing; Fight back!

- A. [Vs. 10 Jabez called upon the God of Israel, saying...**keep me from harm (evil) so that it might not bring me pain.**]
- B. Lord's prayer: [Matthew 6:13 (ESV) And lead us not into temptation, but **deliver us from evil, (NKJV the evil one).**] We forget sometimes that there is a real devil that was happy about Jabez's pain and lack. [John 10:10 (ESV)The thief comes only to **steal and kill and destroy...**]
- C. How do we fight back against the devil?
 1. Close open doors that allow evil in our lives. E.g., (1) Letting the wrong people influence us, [1 Cor. 15:33 (NLT)..."**bad company corrupts good character.**" (2) saying yes to temptation, e.g., Porn can lead to adultery, divorce, and \$ loss.
 2. Resist the devil in prayer. Context spiritual warfare and the armor of God, [Ephesians 6:17–18 (NLT)]...take the **sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. 18 Pray in the Spirit** at all times...] E.g., how to pray if satan is trying to destroy your kids.

VII. Conclusion

- A. Summary mentoring lessons from Jabez. #1: Emotional pain can define us and shape our outlook on life. #2: God can heal us from the pain in our soul. #3: Biblical character is the foundation of God's blessing in our life.

#4: God's blessing includes material and financial prosperity. #5: Satan wants to steal our blessing; Fight back!

B. Jabez prayed for his personal needs and desires. His prayer and God's answer tells us it's ok to desire a prosperous life as a follower of Christ., just keep God 1st. What God did for Jabez, He can do it for us.

VIII. Response

A. Altar

B. Prayer

C. Souls

IX. Bibliography/ Resources: Logos Bible Software and Library, Platinum Edition, was used to prepare this message.

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X. Supplemental material

A. Dr Ben Carson: neurosurgeon and Surgeon General. He's a Christian who rose from poverty, raised by a single mom in a rough neighborhood. He knew pain like Jabez and found help in God to overcome it.

B. Even secular people recognize the Biblical truth of the devastating power of pain and our desire to prosper. The pleasure principle is a term originally used by Sigmund Freud to characterize the tendency of people to seek pleasure and avoid pain. I got a minor in psychology but had to relearn much of it because it was man centered and not God centered.

C. God had promised his people an inheritance of land in Canaan, but they were not able to drive out the inhabitants. Jabez prayed to God for help.⁷