

Harris Creek Baptist Church  
Tedashii  
Series: Soundtracks  
July 16, 2023

Blessed to be a Blessing

Psalms 67

**May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us, *Selah***

**<sup>2</sup> that your way may be known on earth,  
your saving power among all nations.**

**<sup>3</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!**

**<sup>4</sup> Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth. *Selah***

**<sup>5</sup> Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you!**

**<sup>6</sup> The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, shall bless us.**

**<sup>7</sup> God shall bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth fear him!**

Good morning. Good morning! How y'all doing? Good. Praise the Lord. Praise the Lord. I'm glad to be here today. It's an honor to be here. Thank you to JP and to Dale and to everybody for having me out. It is truly an honor to be here. Interesting enough to come in on the Soundtrack series when you guys are talking about these, oldies but goodies if you will. I'm like, "Yo, I do music, this is pretty cool. I like this." Man, I'm so glad to have a chance to be here with you, to share and to just dive into everything God has for us this morning. I know it's early, but because of me having children and because of me wanting to get in the Word, I'm a person that gets up at 5:30-6 AM. So, I've been up a long time. I don't know if you just rolled out of bed and decided to pop in today. So, if my energy is a little more than you're desiring or used to... So what?

I feel like when I get a chance to ever talk and in front of anybody, I have this energy. But when it's specifically about God's word, the energy kind of increases. Not to mention the fact that I grew up going to a Missionary Baptist Church here in Texas. So, the energy comes from that experience as well. I like to hear amens and people talking back and I'm prone to see you yawn and point at you. Don't worry, don't worry - it's all out of love. It's all out of love. But this morning I want to see something different happen. I know I'm a guest, I'm not the common person you hear from. I know that sometimes can be jarring for people if you didn't know, but they told me to make myself at home. I know you didn't say that to me, but I'm going to pretend like you did and I'm going to make myself at home. Amen. Thank you, brother. Thank you,

brother. Thank you. That is what I am talking about. Any brother in loafers say, “amen”, I feel better.

So, I want to know. Anybody in the room ever heard of this thing called P90X before? Anybody? Show of hands? Anybody ever heard of P90X before? Awesome! So, I'm not the only one that heard of this cult. Got it. Got it. That is what's up. P90X is a fitness program where you come in and you jump in and you're supposed to do all these different exercises, all these different moves and motions to bring about what they called muscle confusion. Some of you know this. Some of you are feeling proud that you know this actually, muscle confusion. It's this idea of where you move your muscle one way and then you instantly follow-up with doing it another way, and the muscle fibers get confused. And as they, you know, muscles break down, they build back up bigger, so they get stronger and larger. But through muscle confusion, you can double that. You can triple that.

And so, I decided to jump in, buy into this idea, and try P90X years after the trend. I'm going to just do it. I'm going to just try it and see what's up with it. And yeah, it wasn't for me. P90X should only be offered to elementary children. No adult should be able to do that. That's ridiculous! Muscle confusion for me is when my muscles got confused. Like, 'Brother, why are you out here doing this? We don't do this. That ain't a thing. That's not what we do. How dare you? Go back and get some chips and sit down. That is what we do.' Muscles were confused at a brother. They was like, “I don't get this.”

But this morning, my prayer for you is that we have a little muscle confusion. A lot of us are used to thinking of certain things one way, seeing things one way, experiencing things one way. Like, 'Man, I'm used to JP. Come on, bro.' Like, I get it. There are some things that we just get used to in routine, and yet muscle confusion comes in to shake that up. But I offer the reality that if you allow yourself that type of muscle confusion this morning, perhaps God could grow some things double and triple in your life. Is that cool? Is that cool?

Let me pray. God in heaven, You are good. You are good and You do good. God, the Bible says that You are good and that your goodness actually, in Romans 5 tells us, leads us to repentance. There is a goodness oh God from you. A goodness that affects us in certain ways, that it would bring about change in our lives - Oh God. You are good and You do good. And I pray it's that goodness that we experience this morning - to taste and see that you are good, like honey at the tip of the tongue would you help us to taste your goodness this morning, God? Would it lead us to repentance this morning, God? Would you get all of us to recognize your goodness, Oh God. May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart be acceptable in thy sight, Oh God, my strength, and my Redeemer. Get glory in this place. In Christ's name we pray. Amen.

So, I grew up like I said, going to a Missionary Baptist Church and in doing so found myself often reading the Psalm that we're studying this morning. No exaggeration, the church, the pastor would always make this the congregational reading. To the point to where it felt laborious and everybody was like, 'Again, bro? Come on.' It was like that. He kept it going. Fast forward, I end up graduating high school and then going through this really small school near here you might have heard of called Baylor University. (Crowd woos) Yeah, yeah, yeah - sic em' bears. So, I get accepted to Baylor. I go to Baylor, and I tell everybody God took me to Baylor to get

saved, not get a degree. Because I didn't leave with a degree, but I left with salvation. I ended up transferring and finishing it later, but I got to Baylor, I started playing football. I got injured. I lost my scholarship. And then I got saved right after that. I tell everybody God broke me physically and spiritually and then I found my way into the loving arms of Jesus.

And through that moment, I felt like God said 'Hey man, I want you to speak. I want you to share about my word.' And I was so confused on what that meant. So, I went back home and when I got back home, I went to that same pastor and I was like, 'Hey man, I'm a Christian now. I really do believe in Jesus. I think He wants me to share.' And he said, 'Well, just walk with me, man. Walk with me.' And for 2 1/2 years I followed this brother. I walked with him and then he ordained me in the Missionary Baptist Church to preach. And every Sunday it was my job to lead the congregational reading of our text today. And so when they said, 'Hey, would you mind speaking on this text?' I just kind of laughed. This is kind of full circle, God. This place is where my journey with you started, God. And yet here I am again, in this same place, doing this text that is so familiar to my soul. So indeed, it is an honor to be here to share about it. Because at the end of the day, I believe based on our text, we are here blessed to be a blessing. You hear it all the time. I know it's kind of cliché for some. But that's the subject of our text today. That's the title of it all. We are blessed to be a blessing. Every single one of us. Not just a few, all of us.

Why does God bless us? Do we ever ask that question? Why does He want to bless us? Is it selfish if we ask for God to bless us? Like why does He want to do such a thing? When we pray, are we usually focused on the answer to the prayer and how it will affect you or how it will impact you? Why does He bless us? What's the benefit? Blessing comes to you to flow through you. That's the beauty of a blessing. It comes to you to then flow through you. The reason God blesses us, the reason He gives us gifts, the reason He heals us, the reason He saves us one - because He loves us.

Let that soak in. Because He loves us. God is crazy about us. He delights in us. So, 1) He blesses us because He loves us. Scripture says in Matthew 7:11, 'What greater gifts? If the enemy can bless his kids, how much greater can God bless his own?' There's this picture of what is in the world is cool, but it's not as good as what God could offer you. He is wanting to bless His children.

Secondly, not only does He love us, but He blesses us. He gives to us, He heals us so that we can then give to others, so that we can heal others. What you've been given, what you've received, from God is given to you so that you can impact someone else. What you have, what you've been given is so you can give of yourself. Whatever that is, to give of yourself. We are vessels. We are a conduit of God's blessing.

I had the chance to go to Israel. I was actually talking to JP about this. I got to go to Israel and walk the Holy Land and I got to the Sea of Galilee. Anyone else been before? Israel? Sea of Galilee? A few of you. I don't know if you know this or not, but that sea is not a sea - it's a lake. I got there and I was like, 'Oh, I was waiting to see the Pacific in the middle of this desert.' I don't know why my brain let me think that growing up, but it was a lake. It was not a huge place. But in their world and their time and their age, that size body of water, it was like a sea to them. And the Sea of Galilee flows down to the Jordan River. The Jordan River flows down... I got

baptized in the Jordan and I get to see the Jordan flow down to the Dead Sea, where we went as well.

The Dead Sea, full of salt, too horrific for anything to grow in whatsoever. The salt content is so thick, it's so much, it's so high that nothing can grow there. And that's not the imagery God wants for your life. You are to be a conduit from the fountain of who God is, blessing you, into your life like the Jordan River - flowing into things that are dead but so you can bring them back to life. People are in this world, dead to Christ, and it flows through you to get to them. Does that make sense? You are blessed to be a blessing. It flows to you.

You don't have that amazing personality; You don't have those looks about you; You don't have people viewing you as popular for yourself. I know you might think that, but that's not what God did that for. He did that so that you could help others see who they're supposed to be, in Jesus. You don't have your brain, you don't have your smarts, your connections, your treasures, your car, your lake house, your investments, your 401K - you don't have any of that stuff solely for you! You have that because it's supposed to flow through you so that you can be a conduit of God's blessing.

Now, what if we get to heaven and we get up in front of God and He's like, 'Hey, why did you use all that stuff I gave you freely for only yourself? Why was that what you chose to do with it? It was never meant to be used for just you. It was meant for something more.' Would you be stunned? Would you be shocked? Would you be surprised? It was never meant for just us, we are meant to be conduits of blessing. Like the moon reflects the light from the sun, we are meant to reflect that light that God shines on us. The blessing that God pours into us is meant for someone else and not just you. I want you to let that sink in.

This Psalm that we're studying this morning, Psalm 67, is a song of mission. It's a Psalm of missionary activity where we go out, we're sent out to engage the world. It's a Psalm of Abrahamic blessing from Genesis 12:1. Abrahamic blessing from Genesis 12:1 that says, '**Now the Lord said to Abram, "Go from your country and your kindred and your father's house to the land that I will show you."**' Abrahamic blessing that started with him being sent out. Then also, it's a Psalm of Aaronic, or Aaron's blessing, where we're supposed to serve and go out to see how God will impact this world through our blessing. How to live for Him. How to walk with Him. How to serve Him. That is what this is for. So, as we look at our text this morning, we start to recognize very clearly that God is doing something miraculous and amazing.

Go to Psalm 67 if you will. When you got it just say 'Amen'. Amen, Amen. Amen. Amen. I'll wait a little bit longer. Some of y'all went to Vacation Bible School - that was quick. Still proud! Charge. I know. I get it, I get it. That was quick. When you get it say Amen. Amen, amen.

Verse one, **May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, Selah.**

Selah. Now some of you are like 'Selah?' And that's a word used, in this day and age, in musical context. It's a word that appears 71 times in the Psalms, 3 times in Habakkuk. It is a word that means to stop - to pause, to take a break. Selah. In music, it would be a dramatic pause for

emphasis. Right? It would be this moment that you would just stop and chill for a moment to let it soak in; to meditate on the words that have just been communicated. So, the writer here is telling us to pause.

Also, in music, Selah in their day and age would have been used as a moment of transition - to move between stanzas. So, we're basically reading the first stanza of a song and he's telling us, 'Hold up, wait a minute, watch this.' **May God be gracious to us and bless us...** Has anybody in here ever struggled to ask God for a blessing? Anyone? A few of us raise our hands. Some of us in here are like, 'No, not me Tedashii. Ask for a blessing, bro that's easy. I'm going to do that all day. God, I need to be blessed with this. I need to be blessed with that. I ain't got no gas. I got to figure out where I'm going next.' We ask for it and yet the struggle for some is real. For those of us that struggle with that, sometimes it deals with wanting to not be overdoing it. Like, 'God, I don't want to be here just to use you. I want to be here to be right before.' And then there are others who are like, 'Man, I just ask for blessing because I know God wants to bless us. So I am going to just keep asking, asking, asking.' And both sides need clarity for what blessing really means. Because we have a loving Father who does want to bless you. And we have a loving Father that does want to bless you, but you're asking about blessing without understanding what He means by blessing.

Blessing is one of those words where it could mean different things at different times. So, for this first verse, I just want to make a few observations to kind of help us get our mind wrapped around this idea. Observation number one, I want you to notice the first ask of the Psalmist wasn't blessing. What was the first ask? What was the first part of the verse there? Grace. God be gracious to us. If we don't begin our prayers with the idea of God's grace, if we don't start our engagement of God with the notion of what we need the most from Him, then we are not fully engaging in prayer the best we could. In order to enjoy all the other stuff you're trying to get to, it first has to go through His Grace. That's how it starts! You, to be a child of God, started because of grace. Your being able to have access to the blessing started because of grace. Your being chosen and set apart started because of grace. The Psalmist knows this and understands that very well, so he says, 'God be gracious. Be gracious to us, Oh God.'

Before the Psalmist asked for anything, there is a purity of right understanding. There is a marker of how he truly understood God's heart. We are sinners in desperate need of a gracious savior. For those in Christ, man, we still need the grace daily too. It's not like it was that one-time thing. Every day we need that grace from God. The grace to control my right foot when I'm driving a little bit. The grace to control my tongue when I'm at work a little bit. The grace to hold my hand when the kids are... I'm sorry, I am preaching to myself right now. I understand.

You got to know that grace is something that is not just for that first moment of salvation. It is for you throughout your life. You need it daily. Daily grace from God. So, before the Psalmist dives into asking for anything, he says 'God, please, just be gracious.' And I believe asking for grace before blessing is truly the only way to ask for blessing with the heart that God desires. In light of our flaws the kindness of God's unmerited grace, it leads us to live a life where we can be set up to be other focused. Without that preface of grace, just going in... 'Can I get some money? God, I need the money. Can I get a little bit of relief from my anxiety? God, I just need the relief. God, can you help us in our home? It's kind of weird right now. I just need you to help us, God.'

And He loves you and wants to do it. But because you laid the foundation of grace before then, when God says, 'Hey, that blessing that you just received how will you now flesh that out to be a blessing to someone else?' Without that grace at the forefront of your mind it seems like it was only for you. It's easy to start to think about how selfish you can get without an attitude of grace, without an attitude of focus on the grace that allowed the very thing you have. Does that make sense?

It is why my kids can be so arrogant about why I don't want to go to Chick-fil-A. I don't know why every kid thinks they're entitled to Chick-fil-A - like it's on the birth certificate I signed. 'Must get Chick-fil-A upon request'. I don't know why that's a thing. And they don't have the focus, the proper ability to gain and grasp the idea that it's only because of grace that you're able to get anything at all. And so, the way you approach me can't be with an entitlement. It can't be with this idea of 'I'm supposed to so, oh well, make it happen. I need that.' Start with His grace. It starts with His grace.

That's like a guy being in court standing before the judge, pleading and begging for mercy. And the judge says, "Alright. You don't deserve this, but I'm going to let you go." And you're like, "Word, you going to let me go, bro? Yes! Thank you, God! He let me go! Uhm, so I don't have a car to get home. Can you buy me a Lamborghini though? You being so nice and all, just give me a Lamborghini while you at it. Oh, you been so nice and all that car needs a nice garage to park in. You can you give me a good house too, Judge? Buy me somewhere new to stay?" That sounds absurd! It's like, how did I even jump to that idea just now? It's like sounds absurd. That you already got the freedom through grace to be let go by the judge and now you're like, 'Hey, speaking of freedom and you giving stuff away...hmm. What else can I get from you?' Without a picture of grace first, blessing becomes shallow. Without a picture of grace first, blessing becomes limited. Because it only becomes about you. So, we have to have that picture - approaching the throne of God is much more serious than many of us would ever believe, but also much more available and valuable than many of us would ever care to believe.

Hebrews 4:16 says, **Let us go with confidence and draw near to the throne of grace, that we may receive mercy and find grace to help us in a time of need.** Grace is where you start. Grace is where the Psalmist starts. We draw near in grace. The second observation out of that part of the text would be. **May God be gracious to us and bless us...** Did you know blessed may be the most frequent term in the Christian Dictionary. You hear it all the time. How are you? I'm blessed, brother. I'm good. Man, I'm blessed to be a blessing. We're talking about it this morning. God bless you. As soon as you sneeze, God bless you. We hear blessed all the time. It's almost like it's turned into a compliment. Just this phrase that you say in order to make something make sense. I hear it in hip hop all the time. It's like, 'Man, look at the car, look at my house, look at the way I travel, look at the private jet - I'm blessed.' As if it's a term just to be used for the idea of what you've acquired and what you have attained. And God is like, 'We're missing that. If we're praying for blessing and we're only thinking of it in those terms, we're misunderstanding what He means by blessed.'

The word blessed in this Psalm, in Psalm 67 is the Hebrew word *barakh*. It actually means to kneel before God, to bend your knee before God. Some people would say, if you are going to acknowledge and recognize this person in front of you as the true king you bend the knee. You

surrender and submit. Blessing is about recognizing who God is and bending the knee. That's what He means by blessing in this song. **God be merciful, be gracious to us and bless us.** Be gracious to us because we see how powerful you are, how strong, how capable, how majestic you are. Bless me to bend the knee God. And we understand his position and status in our life.

There are different types of blessing in Scripture. The blessed man in Psalms chapter one uses the word bless to mean happy; to be delighted in God. Then you have other places in the Beatitudes where Jesus is like man, 'Blessed is the one who is meek. Blessed is the one who is a peacemaker. Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness.' We see blessed in many different ways in Scripture, yet right here, right now, it's about bending the knee. So, what is the biblical definition of God's blessing? It is favor on your life that draws you closer to God and in return draws others closer to Him.

I'll say it again. The definition of blessing: favor on your life that draws you closer to God and in return draws others closer to Him; that's blessing.

Third observation, **make His face shine upon us.** The last petition is that God would shine upon us. This implies a smile or a warmth of sense. This part of the verse really does intrigue me because when he says to make His face shine upon us in the Hebrew terminology, the idea here is - not just that something would glow upon you, but that it would exist within you. Upon really does mean it would permeate who you are. It's not just a resting upon, like putting your hand on someone's shoulder or shining the light from above on someone. It's like that very thing that's now shining on you permeates who you are to then be expressed out of you. That is literally the picture in Hebrew of what he's trying to get us to see - shine upon us oh God.

It's like when you run into somebody that you ain't seen in a while. You see them and you get excited and they see the joy on your face and that joy on your face elevates their joy. And then you start running to one another. It's like my kids, when I'm gone a long time on the road and I come home and he's far away and he is like, "Daddy!" And as soon as I hear that everything in me leaps for joy and I'm just like, "What's up, baby? Come on! Let's go, let's go." My 13-year-old don't do that no more. I am in therapy about it. He just stopped one day. Yeah. So, as I get excited about the 7-year-old, it just reminds me of the 13 year old. If y'all got teenagers, I'm fasting and praying for you too. He don't do it no more, man.

But God wants to see, He literally wants to see Himself in you; His reflection in you. If He shines on you, my God you're to shine Him. That's the beauty of what God did. He made you in His image. He gave you His word. He shines on you to shine through you. So that if you look like Him, if you talk like Him, and if you radiate Him, the world sees Him. It's that simple. That's what God's intentions were, and the Psalmist sees it. **Be gracious to us and bless us and cause His face to shine upon us.** That's who we are.

2 Corinthians 5:21 says, **so that we might become the righteousness of God.** When we shine for God in that way other people can't help but see it. Are you getting the picture? Where you start with grace, and grace helps your heart to not become entitled, and then you get blessed by God. But you know that it's more about your posture before God than it is your receiving of things. And then you decide to say, "Man, I'm so blessed by God, I'm going to shine this forth

because He shined on me.” And now everything flows through you. That's how God has designed this world to work. That's the intention of His heart, for when he created you; to shine through you in that way.

So, if we understand that to ask God for blessing begins with a heart, a posture, of asking for mercy. And we understand He blesses us for His own purposes. Then we can understand the rest of the text. You got to have the proper context for it. So, the rest of the text says, **May God be gracious to us and bless us and make his face shine upon us, Selah.** Think about that. Every time you think about getting blessed by God pause for a moment. Think about it. And then the songwriter moves to the next stanza, and he says, **...that your way may be known on earth, your saving power among all nations.**

So, after those observations, I have just a couple points and we'll be done.

*1. God blesses us so that all people would know Him.*

Why are you blessed? So that the world might know Him. God blesses us to be a blessing. He blesses us to be a blessing. It's not even about us. God has blessed you in many ways, some amazing and some painful, ultimately for your good and His glory and for others to see His goodness. That's His desire.

In my story, one of the most painful things for me that I've gone through - there's a few, there's a bunch of them. But related to this place, I was going to Baylor. I got here on the academic scholarship, and I decided to walk onto the football team and the track team, and I did. And before you jump with applause and cheer at that amazing feat that I accomplished; this was not recent. I went to college and God saved my soul back in 19... (Tedashii mumbles). I stepped forward at a point to play ball here when the coach would have to say, “Hey Bro, go pass these tickets out. See if you can get them to come to the game.” No exaggeration. That was my life. Go over there and tell them at The Sub, “You need to go. Hey, we got a game this weekend. You ready!?!” ‘I am eating my lunch, buddy, please move.’ OK? Like nobody cared at all.

But I'm working hard. I'm trying to be on the team and I'm in the weight room and I'm lifting weights. And I look on the wall and I'm like, ‘Yo, that's the squat record? Man, I'm so close to that. My workout weight is only 100 pounds less. You think I could get this?’ And they're like, ‘Bro, you could break this record today.’ So, I listen to people in the weight room, something you should never do. Listen to Coach, not people. But I listened to people, and I decided to try to break the squat record after working out. I go down with the weight, and POW I pop back up. And they are like, “You killed that! That was amazing! Put on 25 more!” And I'm like, “Yeah, 25 more, yeah!” And they put on 25 more and I go down and I don't come back up. As a matter of fact, when I tried to come back up I heard this snap. And I heard it more internally than I did externally, which freaked me out even more. And I was like, “Ahhhhhh” (high-pitched scream). Hold up, hold up. I'm sorry. I got way too comfortable with y'all just then! Never tell anybody I made that noise, please. Don't ever do that. If you ever retell that story, just be like ‘...and he said, Oh no’ (deep voice). Please don't do your boy like that. Don't do that to me. Golly.



So, the medic, the doc was in the office. He ran out and was like, "Where is she at? Who fell?" They are like, "Nah, it is Tedashii man." They're like, 'Oh, OK.' They take me to the hospital. Doc looks at me, x-rays come out. Long story short he says, "Son, you don't know this, I guess, but you have scoliosis. Your spine is curved in two places. So, your hips because of that are rotated forward and one of them is facing outwards." He said, "Son, I don't even know how you walked in my office today." And I was like, 'OK, so what are you telling me?' And he said, "Well, you got two choices. You can keep playing football and, you know, in a few years probably end up in a wheelchair or you can choose to stop playing and walk and try to train and get better." I was like, 'Huh? OK, well. It's tough, man. I think I am going to go walking. I'm cool with that. I've been walking since I was three. I'm pretty good at it now. I'm going to stick with that.' (Crowd is laughing) Three! I was a late bloomer. Don't judge me! I heard you. I heard you. I can walk now. How about that? I can walk now. I heard you. Wow! Wow! Et tu, Brute? Anyway...

So, I had to give up sports because of this thing called scoliosis and because of the pain and the potential of injury. So, I was like, 'Alright, I'm done. I guess I got to give that up now.' And I thought that's as hard as life gets. And I was like, 'Well, God, I don't know what you're going to do with my life now because it was all about football.' I was born in East, Texas. I grew up right outside of Houston. Moved and went to Baylor, then went back home. I mean, I grew up here - it's football. What do I do now? I don't know what to do.

And then fast forward, because of not being able to stay in school here, because of the fact that the prices are ignorant, I left, and I ended up finishing my degree at the University of North Texas, where I ended up meeting this guy named Lecrae. Some of y'all might know him. Whatever, he ain't here. Calm down. So, I meet him, and we start doing music. Fast forward and here I am now living this life that I live. And I was like, "Oh, that's what you were doing God. Football was my version of blessing, but I had to bend the knee. Got you God. OK, that's what you're doing. That's how you're going to shine your face through me, isn't God? You're going to have me bend the knee in this way." Trust me, there were days – there were many years - I couldn't even look at the draft because I was so frustrated at my opportunity that I missed. I wasn't going, but it's still what I believed about myself. I couldn't look at it. I remember thinking, 'God, why would you do this to me?' And now to be where I am today and look back and realize, 'Oh, I've been to all but two continents. I've been to every state in America because of rap. That thing we did in the bathroom and got detention for it because we were skipping class. Like that. God has used it to share the gospel everywhere.' Amen. Amen. Only Him! Only Him! It is His plan. God, so that we may know on earth your saving power, your saving grace, your salvation among all nations.

Some versions say saving power, some say saving grace, some say salvation. I just want to highlight that real quick, because in Hebrew the word salvation is actually Yeshua - which is their word for Jesus. In this moment, as He's gracious and blesses us and shines on us, we get to make known to the world Jesus. Among all nations. Among ALL nations. So, God has blessed us so that people would know Jesus. That's as clear as I can make it. That's what He does. That's how He works. That's the way He moves, so that we can know Him and make Him known. So that we can know Him and then make Him known. You are blessed to be a blessing. This psalm was written thousands of years before Jesus, and God through this author makes very clear to us

the reason He wanted us to be blessed. Even the reason He wanted to bless the Israelites who are reading it was because He loves all of creation and God blesses us that His ways may be known by all. That's the goal. So, we are to move forward in that way with that understanding. So, God blesses us so that others may come to know Him. You're blessed to be a blessing.

Next verse, **Let the people praise you, O God; let all the people praise you! Let the nations be glad and sing for joy, for you judge the people with equity and guide the nations upon the earth. Selah**

2. *God blesses us so that all people would praise Him.*

So that everyone would praise Him. If we have been blessed, we're only blessed to bless others. What's the greatest thing you have right now? You have salvation in Jesus, you have been blessed to help set others free. That's the goal of what He's done for us. Jesus says, 'You receive without paying, give without pay.' Why should the nation sing for joy? Why do they sing? Because God will judge the people with equity. Those that know about Jesus and share this with other people, they will be saved. That's why we can rejoice! We can tell them, 'No, no, you don't have to be afraid. He's not against you. He's a good God. He loves you. Actually, He judges with equity.' And I love this version of the text because it uses the word equity here, because there's a difference. In some it says He judges fairly or He judges righteously. God's idea of righteousness is related to the idea of equity, equity versus fair. Equity versus equal. Let me help you understand.

So, if we all go to a baseball game and we stand at the fence to watch the game, some of us are going to be taller than others. We go, "Man, that's not fair. I can't see. No, I can't see. I want to be able to see him." We go, 'Oh, let's make this equal. We'll give everybody a box to stand on.' And so everybody comes up and they step on the box. Well, now some of us can see. But wait, not all of us can see. I don't understand. Help me. Equity says, "Wait, you're a little shorter than them. Let me give you a taller box so you can see." Equity provides what you need so that you all receive what you need. That's God's vision of blessing. That's God's view of how He will give to His children. We can tell them, 'He's a fair judge because He judges with equity. Not just equality, but with equity. Because He wants all of us to taste and see how good He is.' Does that make sense?

I want you to see that because there's this thought that we live with in this country, that the idea is to just be fair or to just be equal. It's like, "Well, I got mine you need to get yours. Come on, man. We all have the same 24 hours. Come on, bro. We got two legs. We all got them, let's move. Come on, man. You got ideas just like I got ideas. Just do it!" And yet there are those who lack the equity necessary to be able to do such a thing. And God is saying, 'Here in my economy, I am about equity.' Not just saying, 'Oh look, we all got boxes to stand on', but saying, 'Wait, it's not enough for you just to have one. Let me give you one that will actually bless you.' God blesses us to be a blessing.

3. *God blesses us so that all people would fear Him.*

It's so simple to me to think about how God wants us to be blessed so that the world reveres Him. Not too long ago, I have gone through several losses in my life. I've lost my stepmother to breast cancer. I lost one of my little sisters to pneumonia after doing dialysis; she had juvenile diabetes. She has been sick her whole life, and she passed before she turned 30. I have a little sister who a couple years ago passed away from stomach cancer, and she was 31. I know my fair share of loss in this world. And I don't get it. I still struggle sometimes with it.

And then not only that, but probably the one that stings the most is (there is no probably). The one that hurts the most is my wife, Danielle and I, we lost our one-year-old son Chase. Chase was one year old, we were living in North Texas, and he passed away suddenly - without warning, without any sort of understanding. He's just gone. And when I tell you the bottom fell out of my world... It's all good when it's, 'Man, I get everything I want. I get everything I need. I'm blessed.' When the bottom falls out, you're like, "God, what are you doing?" I got angry, bitter, upset, resentful, hurt, sad. And I didn't know where to go. I didn't know how to function. "What are you doing God?"

And saying that isn't easy. It doesn't roll off my tongue like giving directions. I say it because I know he can use that too. My belief is that my son is safe with Jesus now. No more pain. No puberty to go through. No hardships about money. No worry about will they like him? Why don't they like him? Like he's not going through any of that. The way I see it is, man, we're at the theme park and he got the fast pass. We all are trying to get there, he just got to skip the line. And it took me years to be able to say that, but I'm able to say it because I know God can use it.

I don't know what you have in your life. What pain? What hardship? What hurt? What disappointment you have, but He can use that too. And because of that, literally a person came to me and said, "Man, I have way more reverence for God based on how you're trying to live." He said, "Man, I would have gave up a long time ago." And I said, "Trust me, I tried." And it ain't got nothing to do with me. I've just tasted His goodness and I know that I'm here to be a blessing to somebody else. Because there's another parent who lost their kid; there's another family without their child; there's another grandmother who lost their grandbaby. And if I could just be a blessing for a moment, I know it can flow through me.

So, I don't just come up here and say this because I studied or I learned something, I'm trying to live it. With everything that I got. Whatever you have, God gave it to you for you to transition it and transfer it. That's how he wants to use us y'all, in the good and the bad.

And so, I think about as I close, the kid who came up to Jesus with the two fish and five loaves of bread and offered it as the people around him were hungry and wondering how they would eat. And the little boy just offered what he had to God. He just offered it. And Jesus multiplied it to bless many and the disciples ate. I know the idea is, "Well, if I give away what I got, what about me?" I know that's the idea, but God is not about leaving you out. He's crazy about you. God loves you. And if you could just taste that goodness for a moment, you'll be able to see what we see. That He is trying to do something through you. That He's trying to use you for His glory in a way that is way different than this world would tell us. And that's how He moves.

So, I just want you to know that we're blessed to be a blessing. Your possessions, your intellect, your personality - you're blessed to be your blessing. He can use you if you allow Him; if you let Him. So, what way will you let Him use you? Let me pray.

God in heaven, I ask that you would use us for your glory. That you would use us mightily God, for your glory. And no matter what we do, God, we're here because you desire for your glory to be spread all throughout the earth. To the nations, the scripture says. All peoples of the earth, that they would worship you. So, God, would you help us to be liberal in our blessing? To understand that because of grace, we don't have to be entitled, you'll give to us too. You love us. So, would you help these people before me see that? And would they lean in and trust in You in ways like never before. It is in your name we pray God. Amen