



The Mystery of The Father's Blessing

Season 2 Episode 12

INTRODUCTION:

Life is a journey and as we travel through it we pick up things we want, and receive things we did not want.

- There are quandaries as things we thought would happen don't happen, and there are moments of elation as events we thought would never occur—do.
- Life lies in your hands and you are shaping it each and every day.
 - In one way or another shaping your own life becomes your ultimate freedom.
- There are moments that transcend choice, moments that seem to propel us to our future and accelerate our purpose in life.
 - They lift us above the fray of circumstances that try to drag us down.
 - They instill hope when the world around us is hopeless.
 - They point us in the right direction and often give us a jump start in life.
- One mysterious moment in our lives is called a blessing and the greatest blessing one can receive is the blessing of the father.

TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 1

God created us with a need to be loved, and in that need to be loved, He gave us a deeper need for intimacy.

- Until we allow the Father to fill our hearts with his love, there will be a vacuum and that vacuum will drive us to seek, in other people, what we can only find in our Heavenly father.
- In Genesis 1:28, we find God displayed the first example of the father's blessing.
 - As soon as Adam and Eve were created, "God blessed them, and said to them, "Be fruitful and multiply, fill the earth and subdue it."

- Notice, the first thing God did before He sent them on their journey to change the Earth, was to give them a blessing.
 - » A blessing is the opposite of curse.
 - » The blessing is verbal, it comes out of the mouth, and just as the Apostle James says, "The tongue sets on fire the course of nature."
 - » The father's blessing is not cast in stone, but it does pave the way and gives the child a spiritual inclination to look to God for direction and answers to life's questions.
- Adam and Eve were fruitful.
 - » They multiplied and had dominion because God *spoke* a blessing over them.
 - » Blessings must be *spoken*, for life is in the power of the tongue.

The patriarchs of the Old Testament, Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob understood the power of a father's blessing and practiced it with their own children.

- The writer of Hebrews gives us insight into the patriarchal blessing.
 - They were spoken in faith!
 - » Hebrews 11:20-21 says "By faith Isaac blessed Jacob and Esau concerning things to come. By faith Jacob, when he was dying, blessed each of the sons of Joseph, and worshiped, leaning on the top of his staff."
 - » A blessing is both *spoken* in faith and *received* by faith.
 - » There may be no outward *evidence* that a blessing has any substance, or that the blessings spoken will actually happen—that is up to the recipient.
 - » A blessing opens a pathway for the journey that you will choose to take.

A New Testament example of this is found in the Samaritan woman who Jesus met at a water well.

- As soon as the woman revealed her interest in this living water Jesus spoke of, Jesus asks her to go get her husband.
 - Her reply is that she has no husband.
 - Jesus then tells her she is telling the truth; she has had five husbands and the man she is living with right now is not her husband.
- In the midst of her great amazement at his insight, Jesus starts to talk to her about the worship of God.

- This is pretty startling considering He could have condemned her for her living conditions, but instead chose to talk to her about the Father instead.
- The Greek word used seven times in this passage for “worship” means to come close enough to kiss.
 - Jesus tells her that what she has been looking for in men, she could find in God.
 - God was looking for those who would worship (come close enough to kiss) Him in spirit and truth.
 - » God was looking for those who would love Him as much as He loved them.
 - » The only way for that to happen would be through spirit *and* truth.
 - » That spirit and that truth is none other than the Holy Spirit.
 - » The blessing Jesus gave this woman, the coming of the Holy Spirit, would not happen for two more years.
 - » The blessings that was given cleared a pathway to the Father, and she and those she influenced would never be the same.

TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 2

The woman at the well was a clear sign that we can be looking in all the wrong places for the very thing the Father wants to give us.

- In her story, we find that one of the first signs of the Father’s blessings is that He sent the Holy Spirit to us to not only go with us, but to indwell us.
- He is the one who enables us to worship God in spirit and truth, as our spirit connects to God’s Spirit.
- We see an even clearer example of the truth of this displayed, as Jesus is about to begin His ministry here on Earth.

The Father’s blessing of Jesus starts at His baptism, which is His inauguration into ministry.

- Here, as Jesus rises from the water, the Holy Spirit descends on Him as a dove and the Father audibly speaks from Heaven and blesses His Son by saying, “This is My beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased.”
- Once again, we find the Heavenly Father speaking words of identification, approval, and blessing.
- At this particular time Jesus had not yet performed a single miracle or delivered one sermon.

- The blessing did not come as a reward.
 - **Jesus was blessed as a Son rather than being rewarded for what he had done.**
 - » The father's blessing does not come as a reward, but serves as an identifier of all those who are in the family.
 - » If you feel you do not deserve the father's blessings, you have done too many things that disqualify you—remember the woman at the well wasn't clean, but through an encounter with Jesus she changed a city.

The father's blessing is not to condone where you are in your life or what you have done with your life—it is to clear a spiritual path to help get you to where you are going—to achieve the purpose for which you were created.

- Jacob was not in a good place when his father Isaac blessed him.
 - He was a deceiver, but the father's blessings took him to his future.
- A father's blessing looks beyond who you are today and communicates your realistic potential, what you can be and do with the gift mix you have.
 - It communicates the father's love for the child, it tells the child 'I am with you,' and 'I will defend you.'
 - » That tells the son or daughter that they have *hope* in the midst of all the confusion that swirls around them.
 - » It is hope that communicates you have a future in God's great plan.

The father's blessing instills a sense of parental acceptance into the thought processes of life we are about to embark on.

- As we feel the Father drawing close to us, it allows us to draw close to others.
- It is the recognition of the Father's love that allows us to love others as we love ourselves.
- Because the Father takes time to speak His blessings over you, it also denotes that you have a great value to your father.

TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 3

Questions about the Father's blessing:

- Question: "My father is not bad, he simply has never blessed me." These fathers may or may not be Christians, but they are not bad fathers. So the next question is, "Can my father still give me a father's blessings?"
- Answer: Yes he can.
 - It may sound too simple, but go to your father and simply ask him to bless you. He may say he does not know how, or why it's important.
 - To which you can respond with what I am sharing with you here.
 - Every good father wants his child, no matter how old they may be, to be successful and feel loved.
- Question: "Can I give a father's blessing if I never received one?" Or "is it too late to give one?"
- Answer: Yes. You can give one even if you have not received one. If you have not given your children a father's blessing, there is no better time than now.
 - The father's blessing comes from the heart, not from an impartation you receive.
 - While it would be great for every father or mother to have received a blessing from their father, it is not required in order to bless 'what is flesh of your flesh and bone of your bone.'
- Question: "What if my father was a jerk and I don't want his blessings?"
- Answer: A heart that is hardened to the earthly father will find it very difficult to receive the blessings of the Heavenly Father.
 - Forgiveness does not mean you have to accept their abuse or even trust them right now, but it does mean you have to forgive them.
 - Forgiveness is a *choice* you make before you will ever have the *feeling* of forgiveness.
 - » Forgiveness is a spiritual event, yet we feel it in our soul.
 - » When we forgive we extend to others the forgiveness Jesus extended to us when He died for what we have done.
 - » Our sin caused His death and He forgave us for it.
 - Forgiveness allows us to receive a blessing from heaven that is far greater in its substance.
 - Forgiveness allows the Heavenly Father to make up the difference between what the earthly father didn't do for you and what the Heavenly Father intended to be done for you.
 - Extending forgiveness is the spiritual atmosphere He wants you to live in, and when you live there, a whole new life will open for you.

*"God will move Heaven and Earth to get you where He wants you to be—
if you're where He wants you to be."*

CONCLUSION:

Some of you did not have great father figures. Some of you had fathers who passed away before they could give you a blessing. Others of you, for one reason or another, are unable to receive a blessing from your father. To you, I want to offer the blessings of the Heavenly Father, through myself, an earthly father.

This type of blessings is seen in Numbers 6, as God blessed the children of Israel under the pronouncement of Moses. It goes on to say that upon saying the blessing, God would place His name upon and bless those who hear it—that means you.

*Therefore, may "The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
and give you peace."*

*And from me,
May you reach the purpose for which you were created.
May you have courage above your peers.
May you have more passion for the things of God
than others think is necessary.
May you dream more than others think is practical,
and may you expect more than others think is possible.*

*May you choose wisely, without earthly bias.
You have people to influence that you have not yet met.
You have lives to change that are waiting for your arrival.
You are strategically placed wherever God takes you by His grand design,
just so you can become all He made you to be.
That place is the place you can best grow,
the place you can be most fruitful,
the place where the future is changed because of your presence.*

*May you see vistas that others do not even know exist.
May you see God in every petal of every flower
and in every blade of grass for each of them are designed by His hand.*

*May you bless your children
and may they become giants in the faith
under the mighty hand of God.
You will not fail,
you were made by God to be here—for such a time as this.*