

Sermon Discussion Questions

Count Your Blessings

Luke 1:39-56

December 2, 2018

1. Around this time of the year there are many things that can help us to count our blessings and there are many things that can get in the way of counting our blessings. What are those things on both ends?
2. Of course, Mary was blessed—she was the mother of Jesus. And others who got to see Jesus and walk and talk with Him were blessed. But, what about us? Read John 20:26-29 and talk about how that passage highlights how God has blessed us.
3. When Mary began her worshipful words to the Lord she said that both her “soul” and her “spirit” exalted and rejoiced in the Lord (Luke 1:46-47). How do you take those two words: either as two words that say the same thing, or two different words for different aspects of our immaterial part of our being (cf. 1 Thessalonians 5:23; Hebrews 4:12)?
 - a. Do you agree or disagree with this quote: “The spirit perceives, thinks, feels, desires (it is the cause) and then the soul decides, moves to action, animates or is the life-force (it is the effect)”? Or, how about this quote—agree or disagree: “There is no easy way in which to compartmentalize them, as Heb. 4:12 should remind us. Only God using His word can divide one from the other”¹?
 - b. Discuss why this would matter—if at all.
4. In Luke 1:51-53, some would say this was prophetic from Mary concerning her soon-to-be-born Son. How might Luke 4:14-21; 5:29-32 help us to see that Mary may have been speaking about what her Son would do in His public ministry (maybe you can think of other passages that would support this too)?
5. Jeremy mentioned how having something taken away helps us to realize how much we appreciate what we no longer have. Can you think of anything that you might count as a blessing, because it was taken away from you?
6. Toward the end of the monologue, Jeremy said that people will say they are “blessed” without giving credit to the One who has blessed them. Is that logical: Can we say we are blessed without actually giving anyone or anything credit for our blessings? When someone says they are blessed how might we move that comment to point them to the Lord who has blessed them?
7. Let’s count our blessings with each other. Go around the room and have people share how they have seen God bless their lives.

¹ Cairns, A. (2002). in *Dictionary of Theological Terms* (p. 427). Belfast; Greenville, SC: Ambassador Emerald International.