

LIVING THE BLESSED LIFE PART 1
“THE KEY TO EVERYTHING”
2/8/2015

Luke 6:27-42

Introduction

- A. God has what the Bible describes as the “blessed life” available for whoever wants to have it. This life includes: shocking provisions, unexpected miracles, unusual favor, overflowing Holy Spirit fillings, and life defining opportunities to make a difference in the world, all as just the icing on the cake to the real prize of sharing eternal rewards that we can enjoy in the presence of Christ in glory forever.

The verse below describes it like this:

“God is able to make all grace abound towards you, that you, always having all sufficiency in all things, may have an abundance for every good work.” (2 Cor. 9:8)

- B. Today we want to unpack what Jesus taught as the key to that life, or what we’re calling the key to _____.

“Give and it shall be given to you: good measure, pressed down, shaken together, and running over will be put into your bosom. For with the same measure you use, it will be measured back to you!” (Luke 6:38)

- C. **Thesis:** The key to unlocking the storehouse and opening the windows of heaven over your life is living a life of purposeful, joyful, intentional _____.

If you want to be filled you have to learn to be spilled!

You can have as much of God’s blessing as you will intentionally stretch your heart through giving to receive. The promise is that great living will always follow _____ giving. He gives the law of the self-administered return.

- *“With the measure you give out, to that same measure it will return.”*
- *“Our human capacity to receive is functional in direct proportion to our capacity to give; but our capacity to receive is dysfunctional in direct proportion to our desperate need to get.” –Jack Hayford*

If you will always give more than you expect to receive in every situation with every person, with the right heart you will always have more than you need.

Observations from the passage we read today:

- I. **God is an _____ Giver and longs to bless and reward us if we’ll just give Him a chance.**

A. He always wants to give more to and through His children than we want or think to receive. When we give we create the opportunity for Him to bless us.

B. We were made and _____ to be givers just like Him.
“Be merciful just as your Father in also is merciful.” Vs. 36

Why you feel different when you make a difference, why you feel like a million bucks when you make someone else feel that way, why you can’t make someone smile without ending up smiling yourself.

- II. **To really live the blessed life our perspective and paradigm has to be completely _____ than the consumer mindset we learned in the world.**

“First remove the plank from your own eye, and then you will see clearly to remove the speck in your brother’s eye.” (vs. 42)

- A. The mindset of our world defines the good life in terms of _____ (getting more, getting ahead, getting even, getting my dream, my rights, entitlements) and it affects our way of seeing and trying to fix most things:
1. Suffering/hard days
 2. People we are in conflict with
 3. Solving our self esteem
 4. Satisfying our desires
- B. This mindset prevents us from receiving what we really need even when we get what we thought we wanted.

III. The life we always wanted comes when we truly let God change our paradigm and begin to live to give _____.

A. Giving intentionally means:

1. Living with a giving _____.

Intentional givers choose to be a plus not a minus or a zero in every situation. They are partners with God not “payers” to man. They love the Lord with all of their heart, their strength, their soul, and their might.

2. They are _____ to using things to bless people not to using people to get things. The only value of things is in how they can add value to people.
3. They don't give from what they have; they give to create what is needed.

Three kinds of givers: Those who give what they should, those who give what they could, and those who give what they _____.

“He who sows sparingly will reap sparingly, and he who sows bountifully will reap bountifully. So let each one give as he purposes in his heart, not grudgingly, or out of necessity; for God loves a cheerful giver.” (2 Cor. 9:6-7)

B. The incredible rewards of intentional giving include:

1. _____ a heart of love like God's. *“We don't give so God will love us more; we give so we can love God and others more.” –Hayford*
2. Seeing _____ turn into souls.
 - *“Use your worldly resources to benefit others and make friends then when your earthly possessions are gone, they will welcome you to an eternal home.” (Lk 16:9 NLT)*
 - *“Whose heart is set on a pilgrimage...As they pass through the valley of Baca, they will make it a spring; the rain covers it with pools and they go from strength to strength.” (Ps. 84:5-6)*
3. Our containers for God will increase more to be a blessing to everyone around us all of which will come back to us. *“He will supply seed to the sower, and bread for food and supply and multiply the seed you have sown and increase the fruits of your righteousness.” (2 Cor. 9:10)*

(Answers: everything, generosity, great I. extravagant, created II. different, getting III. intentionally, attitude, committed, would, growing, seeds)

APPLICATION FOR THE BLESSED LIFE CAMPAIGN

1. Start with prayer about how God wants to use you to sow seeds of generosity every day.
2. Begin this week at home (memorable Valentines).
3. Consider joining a Blessed Life small group for the next 6 weeks.
4. Participate in a Blessed Life outreach.
5. Intentionally pray about setting a new standard of giving for each area of your life.