

Sermon Notes -- Matthew 6 – Blessing as a Way of Life

¹*Be careful not to do your 'acts of righteousness' before men, to be seen by them. If you do, you will have no reward from your Father in heaven.*

²*So when you give to the needy, do not announce it with trumpets, as the hypocrites do in the synagogues and on the streets, to be honored by men. I tell you the truth, they have received their reward in full. ³But when you give to the needy, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing, ⁴so that your giving may be in secret. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you. – Matthew 6:1-4 (Jesus)*

Christianity is a practice. It is a daily way of life.

1. **Read the Bible** – Understand who God is. Understand what Jesus has done for you and how you can accept His forgiveness. Learn what He wants to do, and what He expects of you.
2. **Pray to God** – Develop a relationship with God, talking to Him about your life and your relationships. And letting God talk to you about your life and your relationships.
3. **Bless People** – This is the life that God wants you to live. His focus isn't that you believe, but that you bless. Jesus never said "Believe in me." His challenge was always "Follow me." And if you read about what Jesus did, He was constantly helping people, blessing people.

⁴³*You have heard that it was said, 'Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'* ⁴⁴*But I tell you: Love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, ⁴⁵that you may be sons of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous. ⁴⁶If you love those who love you, what reward will you get? Are not even the tax collectors doing that? – Matthew 5:43-47*

The Big Point: Jesus calls you to be a blessing to all people.

Jesus tells us that we will receive that type of honor upon entering the Kingdom of God.

'Well done, good and faithful servant! You have been faithful with a few things; I will put you in charge of many things. Come and share your master's happiness!' – Matthew 25:23

Jesus isn't saying you were faithful to believe or even that you were faithful to go to church. You were faithful to take what God gave and use it to bless a few people. "Well done! Well done!"

The purpose of blessing is to make people “want to come home.” And for people to know “You’re going to love it there.”

The Kingdom of God is populated by people who **Read and Understand**, who **Pray and Connect**, and who **Bless and Live**.

These are the people who inspire us. These are the people who amaze us. And God says, “I want *you* to be one of those people.” **These are the people who will populate heaven.**

Some Things to Know About Blessing

1. Blessings are usually very small.
2. Blessings are undeserved free gifts.
3. Blessings can not be demanded.
4. You don't bless because you feel guilty.
5. You're not blessing by making them dependent on you.
6. Being a blessing requires a sacrifice.

Questions to Ponder – Blessing as a Way of Life

Agree/Disagree: By statements you agree, place a checkmark.

- God wants me to bless people who don't deserve it.
- I would bless more people if I had more than I needed.
- I expect God to say, "Well done good and faithful servant."

1. **Read Matthew 6:1-4.** "When you give to the needy..."
Tell us the last time you helped a needy person.
2. What did you do for them? How did they react?
3. Was anything awkward about it?
4. Which of the six "Things to Know About Blessing" surprised you?
5. How does your prayer life help you to make blessing a way of life? How does reading the Bible help you to make blessing a way of life?

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