

Blessings Are Responsibilities

Luke 12:42-48

Luke 12:42-48 - "And the Lord said, Who then is that faithful and wise steward, whom his master will make ruler over his household, to give them their portion of food in due season? 43 Blessed is that servant whom his master will find so doing when he comes. 44 Truly, I say to you that he will make him ruler over all that he has. 45 But if that servant says in his heart, My master is delaying his coming, and begins to beat the male and female servants, and to eat and drink and be drunk, 46 the master of that servant will come on a day when he is not looking for him, and at an hour when he is not aware, and will cut him in two and appoint him his portion with the unbelievers. 47 And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more."

Blessings Are Responsibilities

- We live in the most prosperous country in the history of the world.
- Therefore, we live in one of the most spiritually dangerous countries in the world.
- Rather than being grateful to God, most Americans have developed an attitude of entitlement.

Blessings Are Responsibilities

- We are walking a well-worn path
 - Rom. 15:4 - “For whatever things were written before were written for our learning, that we through the patience and comfort of the Scriptures might have hope.”

Deut. 8:11-15 - “Beware that you do not forget the LORD your God by not keeping His commandments, His judgments, and His statutes which I command you today, 12 lest-when you have eaten and are full, and have built beautiful houses and dwell in them; 13 and when your herds and your flocks multiply, and your silver and your gold are multiplied, and all that you have is multiplied; 14 when your heart is lifted up, and you forget the LORD your God who brought you out of the land of Egypt, from the house of bondage; 15 who led you through that great and terrible wilderness, in which were fiery serpents and scorpions and thirsty land where there was no water; who brought water for you out of the flinty rock...”

Deut. 8:16-20 - "...who fed you in the wilderness with manna, which your fathers did not know, that He might humble you and that He might test you, to do you good in the end 17 then you say in your heart, My power and the might of my hand have gained me this wealth. 18 And you shall remember the LORD your God, for it is He who gives you power to get wealth, that He may establish His covenant which He swore to your fathers, as it is this day. 19 Then it shall be, if you by any means forget the LORD your God, and follow other gods, and serve them and worship them, I testify against you this day that you shall surely perish. 20 As the nations which the LORD destroys before you, so you shall perish, because you would not be obedient to the voice of the LORD your God."

Jesus Taught That Financial Prosperity Is Not Our Purpose Here

- Matt. 19:20-26 - “The young man said to Him, All these things I have kept from my youth. What do I still lack? 21 Jesus said to him, If you want to be perfect, go, sell what you have and give to the poor, and you will have treasure in heaven; and come, follow Me. 22 But when the young man heard that saying, he went away sorrowful, for he had great possessions. 23 Then Jesus said to His disciples, Assuredly, I say to you that it is hard for a rich man to enter the kingdom of heaven. 24 And again I say to you, it is easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God. 25 When His disciples heard it, they were greatly astonished, saying, Who then can be saved? 26 But Jesus looked at them and said to them, With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible.”

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- Luke 12:15-21 - “And He said to them, Take heed and beware of covetousness, for one's life does not consist in the abundance of the things he possesses. 16 Then He spoke a parable to them, saying: The ground of a certain rich man yielded plentifully. 17 And he thought within himself, saying, What shall I do, since I have no room to store my crops? 18 So he said, I will do this: I will pull down my barns and build greater, and there I will store all my crops and my goods. 19 And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have many goods laid up for many years; take your ease; eat, drink, and be merry. 20 But God said to him, Fool! This night your soul will be required of you; then whose will those things be which you have provided? 21 So is he who lays up treasure for himself, and is not rich toward God.”

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- Matt. 6:25-33 - “Therefore I say to you, do not worry about your life, what you will eat or what you will drink; nor about your body, what you will put on. Is not life more than food and the body more than clothing? 26 Look at the birds of the air, for they neither sow nor reap nor gather into barns; yet your heavenly Father feeds them. Are you not of more value than they? 27 Which of you by worrying can add one cubit to his stature? 28 So why do you worry about clothing? Consider the lilies of the field, how they grow: they neither toil nor spin; 29 and yet I say to you that even Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. 30 Now if God so clothes the grass of the field, which today is, and tomorrow is thrown into the oven, will He not much more clothe you, O you of little faith? 31 Therefore do not worry, saying, What shall we eat? or What shall we drink? or What shall we wear? 32 For after all these things the Gentiles seek. For your heavenly Father knows that you need all these things. 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you.”

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- “Freedom from anxiety is characterized by three inner attitudes: 1) what we have we received is a gift, 2) what we have is to be cared for by us as a stewardship from God, and 3) what we have is available to help others.” (Richard J. Foster)

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- Christians are distinguished from unbelievers by their trust in God. Are we spiritual enough to pray that God will remove any blessing that interferes with our service to Him?
- “Hoarding is both unnecessary and an affront to God, who is perfectly capable of providing abundantly for those who trust in him.” (Richard B. Hays)

Blessings Can Become Great Temptations

- Matt. 4:8-10 - "Again, the devil took Him up on an exceedingly high mountain, and showed Him all the kingdoms of the world and their glory. 9 And he said to Him, All these things I will give You if You will fall down and worship me. 10 Then Jesus said to him, Away with you, Satan! For it is written, You shall worship the LORD your God, and Him only you shall serve."
- Prov. 28:20 - "A faithful man will abound with blessings, But he who hastens to be rich will not go unpunished."

Blessings Can Become Great Temptations

- 1Tim. 6:6-10 - "Now godliness with contentment is great gain. 7 For we brought nothing into this world, and it is certain we can carry nothing out. 8 And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content. 9 But those who desire to be rich fall into temptation and a snare, and into many foolish and harmful lusts which drown men in destruction and perdition. 10 For the love of money is a root of all kinds of evil, for which some have strayed from the faith in their greediness, and pierced themselves through with many sorrows."

All Blessings Bring Responsibility

- Jesus consistently taught this principle
 - Matt. 25:14-30
- As we have received, so we must give
 - Matt. 18:21-35

All Blessings Bring Responsibility

- Giving must be in proportion to receiving
 - Luke 12:47-48 - “And that servant who knew his master's will, and did not prepare himself or do according to his will, shall be beaten with many stripes. 48 But he who did not know, yet committed things deserving of stripes, shall be beaten with few. For everyone to whom much is given, from him much will be required; and to whom much has been committed, of him they will ask the more.”

All Blessings Bring Responsibility

- God gives us material blessings so we can use them in His Kingdom
- Greater financial capacity should lead not only to an increase in our standard of living but in our standard of giving, as well
- God gives us material blessings so that our giving produces thanksgiving to God
 - 2Cor. 9:12 - “For the administration of this service not only supplies the needs of the saints, but also is abounding through many thanksgivings to God”

All Blessings Bring Responsibility

- “It is our ability to put to use that which He deposited in us that matters; we are all blessed with different abilities. There is something in all of us that is useful to humanity.” (Jide Adeniba)