



Chasing the Blessings

Luke 6:38 "Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you."

It can be a little overwhelming when it comes to blessings. One person says absolutely chase blessings. Another fine soul tells you to be humble and wait on the Lord. What is a poor soul to do? I want to end this study with a little wisdom and reflection. If all you chase is the blessings of God then I think your missing the point. Jesus is quoted as saying that it rains on the saint and the sinner. Being battle tested is the mark of the Christian. Can you pray in times of trouble? Will you still pray in the good times? What makes you fall away from the Lord?

Equally, I have discounted the blessings. I have not prayed enough. My life could reflect a servant that warrants blessings more often. It is not like I am evil or ignoring God. Rather, it is that I could be more grateful and mindful of the Lord. The man who asked Jesus "if you are willing" is a great example. As Christians we should know that Jesus is willing. That God desires to bless His children. I think the Chosen series gets it. Jesus asks a few people if they want to be healed. In most cases people pause for just a second. Do they have to think about it?

Why do I still have conversations with my head over "if" I will walk over for prayer. Maybe I tell myself that I don't need it today? Are we literally going to "not" chase the blessings of God? Is it that mediocre is good enough? Jesus tells them that the whole of creation is blessed

with vibrant colors and provided for. How much more would the Father in heaven give to those who love Him? Yet, we pause. It is my goal for this next year to chase the blessings of God. Only? No! Yet, it is time that I chased after God. David was a man after God's own heart. Was he chasing the blessings of God?

Malachi 3:10 "Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in my house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that there will not be room enough to store it."

I have two verses that I want to end this study with. The first is in Malachi above. This verse screams abundance. Yet, it is waiting! All we have to do is give of ourselves to the kingdom. You could say "pay it forward" if you like. Yet, the saying "do unto others, what you would have them do unto you" is a real thing. Would we really believe that God owes us for our kindness. That holding a door open for others requires a thank you? Why not (instead) be a blessing to those around you? That whether or not that they are sinners or saints we will pour sunshine instead of rain. Could a loving character open the storehouse of blessings in heaven?

Let us live a life worth living. Be a blessing regardless of God's blessings. Yes, He will bless those who bless. Yet, Jesus said we should knock. That we should bring to the storehouse. We should come like little children eager to learn and love. The main message from the Lord is to come. Noah went through the flood. Moses went through the desert to the promised land. Again, Jesus asked us to leave the gift and go reconcile first. It has never been about God blessing us first. We must be living a life worthy of the blessing. Living a life that eagerly wants a blessing.

Mark 2:22 *“And no one pours new wine into old wineskins. Otherwise, the wine will burst the skins, and both the wine and the wineskins will be ruined. No, they pour new wine into new wineskins.”*

It is time for us to be called new wine skins. Our old ways cannot hold the blessings of God. Like new wine they would burst the old ways. Could we handle the blessings of God? Assuming we deserve them is an old way. Demanding them is an old way. Not living a worthy life is an old way. Finally, never asking (but expecting) is an old way. Let us try a new way. Be open to fresh wines! An open heart that is willing to learn and love more will hold the blessings of God. Paul changed. David and Moses changed. These men took time to learn how to receive the blessings of God. We have been on a long path. It is time to change. To embrace the pouring out of the spirit on our lives. To be willing to expand our faith and trust in the Lord. To chase the Blessings of God!