

Message preached on Sunday Morning, February 16, 2025

Galatians 3:13,14

- 13 *Christ hath redeemed us from the curse of the law*, being made a curse for us: for it is written, Cursed is every one that hangeth on a tree:
- 14 *That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles* through Jesus Christ; that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Jesus TOOK the curse. So we could LIVE IN the BLESSING. **BELOVED:** We should be living in the BLESSING.

"Blessing" - empowered to prosper; an attraction to the blessings

<u>Deuteronomy 8:18</u> – "But thou shalt remember the LORD thy God: for it is he that giveth thee power to get wealth, that he may establish his covenant which he sware unto thy fathers, as it is this day."

REMEMBER: "Prosper" – all His benefits (Psalm 103).

- **IN OTHER WORDS:** Quit HOPING something good happens...expect it to happen! Speak it into existence (faith)!
- If you are a child of God...you can speak the outcome of a thing and expect it to happen (according to the Word).
- <u>Job 22:28</u> "Thou shalt also *decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee*: and the light shall shine upon thy ways."

The problem?

- 1.) Christians don't know...so they live in the curse.
- 2.) Christians have heard...but it sounds too good and they are connected to tightly to the worlds system...so they choose the curse.
- 3.) Christians know it...like it...but perhaps don't qualify.
 - ~ Faith
 - ~ Obedience
 - ~ Covenant Relationships
- **BELOVED:** Get behind the WALL of BLESSING and LIVE behind that WALL. Stay in God's kingdom...in His system!

What to Expect?

One of the passages of Scripture that we have connected the BLESSING to, in this series, is Deuteronomy 28...and for good reason.

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (read) perhaps NASB

BELOVED: What an amazing list.

Obviously if we read on...what a horrible list (vs. 15 through end of chapter).

- **HERE IS THE THING:** When we read that passage...it is great...in theory. Sounds good...but what does it mean...what does it look like?
- **HONESTLY:** Ministers can use the same passage and make it about spiritual stuff instead of physical stuff...is that what it is about?

That is kind of what I want to show us today, through a HISTORAL/BIBLICAL account...if you carry the BLESSING...what does it look like in your life?

Deuteronomy 33:13-16 (As Moses is blessing the tribes of Israel)

- 13 And of Joseph he said, Blessed of the LORD be his land, for the precious things of heaven, for the dew, and for the deep that coucheth beneath,
- 14 And for the precious fruits brought forth by the sun, and for the precious things put forth by the moon,
- 15 And for the chief things of the ancient mountains, and for the precious things of the lasting hills,
- 16 And for the precious things of the earth and fulness thereof, and for the good will of him that dwelt in the bush: let the blessing come upon the head of Joseph, and upon the top of the head of him that was separated from his brethren.
- **NOTICE:** On Joseph, there was a blessing. I won't say that it wasn't on the other brothers...but it functioned on Joseph unlike the other brothers.
- <u>Genesis 39:5</u> "And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, *that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake*; and the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field."
- NOTE: That sounds a lot like Genesis 12...the BLESSING of Abraham.
- **UNDERSTAND:** There is absolutely NO DOUBT that Joseph operated under the BLESSING of God...the BLESSING of Abraham.
- **THEREFORE:** If we look at HIS life...we will understand WHAT the BLESSING looks like for us. We will see a tangible view of what our life is suppose to be full of...no matter what!

God Given Purpose (Dream)

- I do what to point out to you verse 2...there is no true understanding of what the evil report was...but Joseph was going to have no part in it...it seems that started the whole thing.
- **BELOVED:** If you will stand up for good...Truth...right...you will be available to live in the BLESSING.

<u>Genesis 37:5-11</u>

- 5 And Joseph dreamed a dream, and he told it his brethren: and they hated him yet the more.
- 6 And he said unto them, Hear, I pray you, this dream which I have dreamed:
- 7 For, behold, we were binding sheaves in the field, and, lo, my sheaf arose, and also stood upright; and, behold, your sheaves stood round about, and made obeisance to my sheaf.
- 8 And his brethren said to him, Shalt thou indeed reign over us? or shalt thou indeed have dominion over us? And they hated him yet the more for his dreams, and for his words.
- 9 And he dreamed yet another dream, and told it his brethren, and said, Behold, I have dreamed a dream more; and, behold, the sun and the moon and the eleven stars made obeisance to me.
- 10 And he told it to his father, and to his brethren: and his father rebuked him, and said unto him, What is this dream that thou hast dreamed? Shall I and thy mother and thy brethren indeed come to bow down ourselves to thee to the earth?
- 11 And his brethren envied him; but his father observed the saying.

A Tangible Look at the Blessing

At a young age, Joseph received a dream.

That dream carried him for the next 13 years...through some tough times.

BELOVED: That dream is a calling...a purpose in life.

There is a big difference between going through life aimless and going through life with a purpose...a reason for being here!

<u>Romans 8:28</u> – "And we know that all things work together for good to them that love God, **to them who** are the called according to his purpose."

God doesn't just put the BLESSING on you...but a purpose! A calling! A calling for the KINGDOM of God.

HOW frustrating life can be when it seems aimless.

- MY THOUGHT: God wanted Joseph to carry out this call in Israel (the Promised Land)...but HIS brothers didn't receive his purpose...so God allowed him to go to the world.
- **QUOTE:** Outside purpose, life has no meaning. Your reason for living is not just staying alive, but discovering something worth living for.
- If the only reason you are alive is for yourself, your life is too small. You are not here to just work, pay bills and die, there is more to your life and it begins with the discovery of your purpose.

God Given Protection

This story is fascinating...all the moving parts.

Joseph had 10 older brothers...Reuben being the oldest.

We know they all envied him and hated him. Life would be better without Joseph.

Genesis 37:18-22

- 18 And when they saw him afar off, even before he came near unto them, they conspired against him to slay him.
- 19 And they said one to another, Behold, this dreamer cometh.
- 20 Come now therefore, and let us slay him, and cast him into some pit, and we will say, Some evil beast hath devoured him: and we shall see what will become of his dreams.
- And Reuben heard it, and he delivered him out of their hands; and said, Let us not kill him.
- And Reuben said unto them, Shed no blood, but cast him into this pit that is in the wilderness, and lay no hand upon him; that he might rid him out of their hands, to deliver him to his father again.
- Ten (10) brothers hated him and 9 of them wanted him dead. Maybe ten wanted him dead, but Reuben knew it was wrong.

So in a sea full of people conspiring AGAINST him...there was ONE who rose up to save him.

- * Let's throw him in the pit (and leave him).
- * Purpose was to come back when the brothers were gone and free him and return him to dad.
- **LISTEN:** Reuben may not be an AMAZING HERO...but he stood up enough to protect Joseph from death.
- **MANY TIMES** we expect the BLESSING to look like NO PROBLEMS...we will see through this account that stuff happens.
- **HOWEVER:** As long as we stay connected to God's BLESSINGS...God will always raise up a deliverer... they may not look how you think they should look, but they will be there.

God Given Prosperity

Genesis 39:1-6

- 1 And Joseph was brought down to Egypt; and Potiphar, an officer of Pharaoh, captain of the guard, an Egyptian, bought him of the hands of the Ishmeelites, which had brought him down thither.
- 2 And the LORD was with *Joseph, and he was a prosperous man*; and he was in the house of his master the Egyptian.
- 3 And his master saw that the LORD was with him, and *that the LORD made all that he did to prosper in his hand*.
- 4 **And Joseph found grace in his sight**, and he served him: and he made him overseer over his house, and all that he had he put into his hand.
- 5 And it came to pass from the time that he had made him overseer in his house, and over all that he had, that *the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake*; and *the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had in the house, and in the field*.
- 6 And he *left all that he had in Joseph's hand;* and he knew not ought he had, save the bread which he did eat. And Joseph was a goodly person, and well favoured.
- I KNOW that we tie in ALL GOD'S BENEFITS into prosperity (and we should)...but this makes it pretty clear that WEALTH is a major thing.
- **QUICK HIT:** vs. 5 Genesis 12:3 I will bless them that bless thee! Yes, this is THAT BLESSING!
- If you are doing things God's way...carrying HIS dream...then it would be to HIS benefit to bless you and prosper you!
- <u>Psalm 35:27</u> "Let them shout for joy, and be glad, that favour my righteous cause: yea, let them say continually, Let the LORD be magnified, which hath pleasure in the prosperity of his servant."
- It doesn't matter where you are or what you are doing...when you are walking under the BLESSING of God...you will financially increase (obey, faith, covenant).
- MAKE EMPHASIS: (vs. 7) Doing what is right is essential to enjoying the BLESSING!

God Given Promotion

UNDERSTAND: We definitely saw this same point in Potiphar's house...but I think it sticks out more in this portion of the story...the prison. Without doing illegal things, it is kind of tough to be promoted in prison.

Genesis 39:20-23

- 20 And Joseph's master took him, and put him into the prison, a place where the king's prisoners were bound: and he was there in the prison.
- 21 But the LORD was with Joseph, and shewed him mercy, *and gave him favour in the sight of the keeper of the prison*.
- 22 And the *keeper of the prison committed to Joseph's hand all the prisoners that were in the prison*; and whatsoever they did there, he was the doer of it.
- The keeper of the prison looked not to any thing that was under his hand; because the LORD was with him, and that which he did, the LORD made it to prosper.
- **LEGITIMATELY:** He is JUST another prisoner...except he is carrying the BLESSING...then it was hard to keep him down.

Dude was in PRISON...no way to make it nice.

BELOVED: Do NOT be fooled...this is a tell-tale sign that the BLESSING is on you....what your life will look like.

- LISTEN: With the BLESSING comes promotion from the world's system and from God's system. God will move you through the ranks...every rank...when you are living in HIS SYSTEM...HIS BLESSING.
- **UNDERSTAND:** There are many of you who have been STUCK in jobs...but do you think it should be any other way?
- You have kind of resigned yourself to the fact that maybe this is as good as it gets...a quarter raise every year until I die.
- **BELOVED:** It is time you put your faith in the BLESSING...in the God of the BLESSING...TRUST that it is HIS DESIRE to promote you.

HERE IS WHAT the Holy Spirit spoke to me:

"With the BLESSING it is IMPOSSIBLE to stay down. You are like a ball in a swimming pool...you will always rise to the top. As a matter of fact, the further down you are pushed...the HIGHER YOU WILL RISE."

God Given Palace

I know that sounds weird...but if you understand the palace as being YOUR WEALTHY PLACE... James 1:4 – Perfect and complete lacking nothing. Psalm 23: 1 – I shall not lack

- <u>Psalm 66:12</u> "Thou hast caused men to ride over our heads; we went through fire and through water: but thou broughtest us out into a wealthy place."
- We know the story of the butler (cup-bearer) and the baker...the butler forgot Joseph for two years...but finally remembered him when Pharaoh had his dreams.
- <u>Genesis 41:37-57</u> Joseph is raised to second in command...nothing happened in EGYPT without going through Joseph's hands.

He went from the prison to the palace in ONE DAY.

- **BELOVED:** Be careful what you call failure...because with the BLESSING you are ALWAYS one step away from the PALACE.
- <u>1 Peter 5:6</u> "Humble yourselves therefore under the mighty hand of God, that he may exalt you in due time:"

Enemy Applied Pressure

- You may have noticed that I glossed over several things in Joseph's life...or covered it quickly, to focus on the five cool things.
- Genesis 37:5 His brothers hated him
- Genesis 37:11 His brothers envied him
- Genesis 37:18 His brothers conspired against him
- Genesis 39:19,20 Potiphar's wife framed him
- Genesis 40:23 The butler forgot him.
- It seemed at every turn PRESSURE was applied to him...pressure to throw in the towel...pressure to start taking short cuts...pressure to be vindictive.

As I was meditating on this point...the thought came to me.

When Joseph was sitting in the prison...the pressure would have been heavy for HARD FEELINGS to rise up in him...

6

- * Angry at Potiphar's wife for framing him
- * Angry at Potiphar for not believing him
- * Angry at Reuben for not doing more
- * Angry at His brothers for their actions
- * Angry at His dad for not spaking them more
- * Angry at God for this whole debacle!

YET: When the pressure was applied...he kept doing what was right.

NOTE: We know the end of the story when his brothers came to Egypt for grain, Joseph said..."No worries...God was working things out."

BELOVED: Without pressure...no wine! Without pressure...no diamonds!

<u>2 Corinthians 4:8</u> – "We are troubled on every side, yet not distressed; we are perplexed, but not in despair;"

(AMP) – "We are hedged in (pressed) on every side [troubled and oppressed in every way], but not cramped or crushed; we suffer embarrassments and are perplexed and unable to find a way out, but not driven to despair;"

James 1:2-4

- 2 My brethren, count it all joy when ye fall into divers temptations;
- 3 Knowing this, that the *trying of your faith worketh patience*.
- 4 But let patience have her perfect work, that ye may be perfect and entire, wanting nothing.

It is during that PATIENCE that the PRESSURE is applie.

BELOVED: It is during these times of pressure that our faith gets the opportunity to work.

- * To obey
- * To walk by faith
- * To speak the Word
- * To walk in love

Conclusion

BELOVED: This is what the BLESSING looks like. A tangible look at the goodness of God. If you are not seeing it?

- ~ Check your obedience.
- ~ Check your covenant connections.
- ~ Check your faith.