

Blessed on Purpose – Nov. 15, 2023

Blessing. God's favor & protection. Pray for it. Question why we have it. Blessings are more than was expected. Overflow. Abundance.

Abraham wanted 1 son. God's promise – more than stars in the sky.

- Frequently, we're blessed far beyond our expectations.

Paul gives glory to the One "who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think." (**Eph. 3:20**) That's blessing.

Let's break down blessings this week. . . just love? Or a purpose for it?

1. Manna & Quail. Exodus 16. Grumbling. 1 month Free, but no food.

- **That evening** – quail flew in, covered the camp.
- **Next morning** – gather as much as you need. Some gather a lot, some only a little.
 - **Vs. 18** – *"everyone had just enough. Those who gathered a lot had nothing left over, and those who gathered only a little had enough. Each family had just what it needed."*
- God provided more than enough for the day. What was not picked up, "melted & disappeared." Ex. 16:21.
- Yet before Sabbath, got twice as much as needed.
 - God rested on the Sabbath, no manna came. Gather 6 days.
 - Food still wholesome & good; no maggots or odor.
 - God provided manna for 40 yrs. Until arriving in Canaan.
 - 2 quarts of manna preserved for future generations.
- Blessing: God was providing for a need. But Quail? Goodness.
 - Greediness didn't work. It went bad. They had enough.

2. Blessings right on time. . . and in unexpected ways.

- **Matt. 17:24-27** – in Capernaum, collectors of Temple Tax came.
- Jesus sends Peter to the lake, open mouth of 1st fish you catch.
 - 4-drachma coin. 1 fish, tax for both. Blessing to share.

3. God provided for me to help Bandit.

- Had what I needed; given just weeks ahead of time.
- There was a reason for the gift. Didn't know why at the time.
 - If I had just blown it – frivolous use – would not have had it for its intended use: saving Bandit.

► So blessings before the need . . . a blessing to meet a need.
But some blessings come disguised.

4. Jared's story. Injured leg. Earlier, in checkout line, Car out/control

- Broken hip and leg. In ambulance, he wondered how he'd make it.
- In ER, full body CAT scan... internal injuries. Aneurism near heart.
- Had aneurism long time; by size - he should've been dead
 - Being hit by the car saved his life . . . more ways than one.
 - Had not been a Christian before that. Now, believer.

5. Abraham's blessing. Genesis 12.

Gen. 12:1-3 – “The Lord had said to Abram, “Go from your country, your people and your father’s household to the land I will show you. “I will make you into a great nation, and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing. 3 I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you.”

- **Think of that truth:** “I will bless you... and you will be a blessing”
- **We're often blessed to be a blessing.**
- Out of God's abundance, He blesses us . . . from our abundance, we can bless others.

6. Boaz and Ruth. Story in **Ruth 2**. Boaz is wealthy man in Bethlehem.

- “The one who blesses others is abundantly blessed” –**Prv. 11:25 MSG**
- Ruth was a blessing to Naomi. Ruth's reputation preceded her.
- She was known as a daughter-in-law who loved her mother-in-law. She has “been better to you than 7 sons.” **Ruth 4:15**

- When she goes to pick stalks of grain left by harvesters, Boaz instructs: drop bundles of barley on purpose for her. **Ruth 2**

- Ruth asks Why? What have I done to deserve such kindness?

- **Ruth 2:11-12** – “I know about everything you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband. I have heard how you left your father and mother and your own land to live here among complete strangers. 12 May the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge, reward you fully for what you have done.”

- **Blessed. Ruth was a blessing to Naomi, so Boaz blessed her. And God blessed Boaz so he could be a blessing to Ruth.**

These were not accidental blessings.

7. So many stories of God's Blessings . . . like **2 Kings 4** – the Widow's olive oil – small jar, but the oil never ran out until no more jars.
- God's blessings meet our needs & remind us: God is sufficient. God is enough for whatever you're going thru.
 - Even when we go thru trouble . . . find we've been blessed. What others intend for harm, God intends for good.
 - When we go thru loss... still find blessings – God restores.
 - **There is always a purpose** ... meaning behind the blessing.

Scripture doesn't show blessings just for comfort . . . take it easy

- God is more interested in our character, then our comfort.
- **Blessings are for a purpose.** Want to be a blessing?
- Understand God's **flow-thru principle**. We see it in Abraham's story - God will bless you, so you can be a blessing. It's one of His principles:
 - a. "Blessed are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy." Mt 5:7
 - b. "Sow sparingly, reap sparingly; sow generously, reap generously."

Matt. 6 – when you give, don't sound the trumpet to be honored by people . . . you will have received your full reward. Instead, don't let the left hand know what the right hand is doing; then your heavenly Father will reward you.

Finally - **Blessings are not always material.**

Consider what God told Moses to tell Aaron in how to bless the Israelites. Say this: "*May the LORD bless you and protect you; may the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you; may the LORD look with favor on you and give you peace.*" – **Numbers 6:22-26** (Christian Std Bible).

- Blessings are protection ... safety ... peace.
- It is a blessing to live in peace.

David prayed – and sang for blessings: "May God be gracious to us and bless us, and cause His face to shine upon us." **Psalm 67:1**

I pray those prayers for all of us. . . God will bless you, look with favor on you . . . be gracious to you – **on purpose**. So we live with purpose.

Song of the week: "Blessings" – Laura Story