

Count Your Many Blessings

Sunday AM 09/20/20

Introduction:

Obviously the title for this sermon comes from the song with the same title. In that song are the words, “count your many blessings name them on by one, count your many blessings see what God has done.” Right now there are a lot of things going on. The pandemic has lasted 8 months and still counting, economic hardship, social isolation with increase in suicides, social unrest, etc. Be easy to get down cast and depressed. Recently I was reading a post from a sister in Christ. She wrote of her neighbor, this neighbor had welcomed them into the neighborhood when they first moved there and was now calling. Said neighbor had noticed this sister in Christ had not been out in her garden and was concerned. It turned out my friend was dealing with arthritis and scoliosis. The Christian could have focused on the negative but instead she spoke of how blessed she was by God to have such a good neighbor. We choose how we are going to look on life and who we are going to handle things. Therefore, I want to focus on the positive and speak about some good things I believe have come about from these turbulent times.

I) Realize the Blessings We May Have Taken for Granted

A) Often mentioned

1. Looking forward to eating out at a restaurant, going somewhere on vacation, being able to hug someone or go somewhere with someone (doctor’s office).
2. Having funerals and weddings like we used to have them. Lady wrote of the trials of being pregnant and having a baby during Covid 19. Not having her husband in the office with her to hear the baby’s heart beat for the first time, not having another person to ask questions and make sure she did not miss something. Not having the family at the hospital, etc.

B) We have been blessed by God

1. It would truly be hard if not impossible to list all of our blessings.

a. Rain, sunshine, and food.

Acts 14:17 "Nevertheless He did not leave Himself without witness, in that He did good, gave us rain from heaven and fruitful seasons, filling our hearts with food and gladness."

2. Our health and the health of love ones.

3. The blessing of being able to help others or receive help in times of need.

Acts 20:35 "I have shown you in every way, by laboring like this, that you must support the weak. And remember the words of the Lord Jesus, that He said, 'It is more blessed to give than to receive.'"

4. Our spiritual family, being able to assemble together.

Ephesians 1:3 Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places in Christ,

II) A Shift in Priorities for Some

A) Sometimes our priorities can get skewed, especially during times of prosperity.

Revelation 3:14 "And to the angel of the church of the Laodiceans write, 'These things says the Amen, the Faithful and True Witness, the Beginning of the creation of God: 15 "I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could

wish you were cold or hot. 16 "So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. 17 "Because you say, 'I am rich, have become wealthy, and have need of nothing' --and do not know that you are wretched, miserable, poor, blind, and naked-- 18 "I counsel you to buy from Me gold refined in the fire, that you may be rich; and white garments, that you may be clothed, that the shame of your nakedness may not be revealed; and anoint your eyes with eye salve, that you may see. 19 "As many as I love, I rebuke and chasten. Therefore be zealous and repent.

1. Nothing about false doctrine, or idolatry, or sexual immorality as was mentioned to the churches of Pergamos and Thyatira.
2. They lacked zeal, as they were neither hot nor cold but lukewarm.
3. How many lukewarm Christians are there in the world, what about me?

B) There a lot of things we learned to live without

1. Our children can live without playing every sport and going to every ballgame and so can the parents.
2. The shut down gave us more time to be at home, to talk at home, to eat at home, and hopefully to nurture at home.

Ephesians 6:4 ***And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.***

3. There is a difference in what we think we need and what we really need.

1 Timothy 6:8 *And having food and clothing, with these we shall be content.*

4. Of first importance to you, whether you realize it or not is your soul. If your basic decisions are not based on going to heaven then you are missing the boat.

III) Opportunity for More Bible Study

A) Mediate passages

Joshua 1:8 *"This Book of the Law shall not depart from your mouth, but you shall meditate in it day and night, that you may observe to do according to all that is written in it. For then you will make your way prosperous, and then you will have good success.*

Ps 4:4 *Be angry, and do not sin. Meditate within your heart on your bed, and be still. Selah*

Ps 63:6 *When I remember You on my bed, I meditate on You in the [night] watches.*

Ps 77:6 *I call to remembrance my song in the night; I meditate within my heart, And my spirit makes diligent search.*

Ps 77:12 *I will also meditate on all Your work, And talk of Your deeds.*

Ps 119:15 *I will meditate on Your precepts, And contemplate Your ways.*

Ps 119:27 *Make me understand the way of Your precepts; So shall I meditate on Your wondrous works.*

Ps 119:48 *My hands also I will lift up to Your commandments,*

Which I love, And I will meditate on Your statutes.

Ps 119:78 ¶ *Let the proud be ashamed, For they treated me wrongfully with falsehood; [But] I will meditate on Your precepts.*

Ps 119:148 *My eyes are awake through the [night] watches, That I may meditate on Your word.*

Ps 143:5 *I remember the days of old; I meditate on all Your works; I muse on the work of Your hands.*

Ps 145:5 *I will meditate on the glorious splendor of Your majesty, And on Your wondrous works.*

1 Timothy 4:14 *Do not neglect the gift that is in you, which was given to you by prophecy with the laying on of the hands of the eldership. 15 Meditate on these things; give yourself entirely to them, that your progress may be evident to all.*

1. Bible study starts with reading the Bible, requires us to handle it properly.

2 Timothy 2:15 *Be diligent to present yourself approved to God, a worker who does not need to be ashamed, rightly dividing the word of truth.*

2. Requires us to think and mediate on its meaning and application in our lives. What does this mean to me? How can I apply this in my life?
3. Lack of Bible knowledge and respect for the Bible is destroying the fabric of our homes and country.

Hosea 4:6 *My people are destroyed for lack of knowledge. Because you have rejected knowledge, I also will reject you from being priest for Me; Because*

you have forgotten the law of your God, I also will forget your children.

B) Hopefully you and I have found the time and ways to study the Bible more and not less.

1. This tie back in with the earlier points in this lesson.
2. Problem of taking the blessing of having God's word for granted. We have the holy scriptures to make us wise.

Ephesians 3:3 how that by revelation He made known to me the mystery (as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ),

3. What is the biggest hinderance to our study of God's word? Not lack of Bibles, not persecution, but our priorities.

Conclusion:

God has blessed in many ways and we do need to count our blessings one by one. The greatest blessing was God sending Jesus to die for each of us. He died for you and me. He died for the worse of sinners and the best of sinners because we are all sinners. We need not take that blessing for granted but treasure and cherish it. We need to obey the Gospel and live by it.