

The Flow of Blessing

Topic: The Blessing Part 2

Text: Malachi 3:10-12

Bring ye all the tithes into the storehouse, that there may be meat in mine house, and prove me now herewith, saith the LORD of hosts, if I will not open you the windows of heaven, and pour you out a blessing, that there shall not be room enough to receive it.

11 And I will rebuke the devourer for your sakes, and he shall not destroy the fruits of your ground; neither shall your vine cast her fruit before the time in the field, saith the LORD of hosts.

12 And all nations shall call you blessed: for ye shall be a delightsome land, saith the LORD of hosts.

INTRODUCTION:

Review...

I. THE BLESSING IS ATTACHED TO CERTAIN ACTIONS! (Luke 6:27-31)

- What are those actions?

A. LOVING OF PEOPLE! (V.27)

...Love your enemies, do good to them which hate you,

B. RELEASING LOVE IN TANGABLE WAYS! (V.28-30)

1. Blessing others!
2. Praying for others!
3. Turning the other cheek!
4. Giving to those who might ask!

C. TREATING OTHERS THE WAY YOU WOULD WANT TO BE TREATED! (V.31)

And as ye would that men should do to you, do ye also to them likewise.

II. **BLESSING IS CONNECTED TO THE HEART BEHIND OUR GIFTS! (LUKE 6:32-38)**

A. THE HEART OF A BELIEVER IS THE VERY OPPOSITE OF OUR HUMAN NATURE! (V.32-35)

For if ye love them which love you, what thank have ye? for sinners also love those that love them.

33 And if ye do good to them which do good to you, what thank have ye? for sinners also do even the same.

34 And if ye lend to them of whom ye hope to receive, what thank have ye? for sinners also lend to sinners, to receive as much again.

*35 **But love ye your enemies, and do good, and lend, hoping for nothing again;** and your reward shall be great, and ye shall be the children of the Highest: for he is kind unto the unthankful and to the evil.*

B. OUR ACTIONS ARE IN REACTION TO OUR LIKENESS TO OUR HEAVENLY FATHER! (V.36 & 37)

36 Be ye therefore merciful, as your Father also is merciful.

37 Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned: forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:

C. OUR FATHER REACTS TO OUR COMMITMENT TO GIVE! (V.38)

Give, and it shall be given unto you; good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For

with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

III. BLESSING FLOWS DIRECTLY FROM THE SEEDS THAT WE HAVE PLANTED! (GAL. 6:1, 7-9)

A. SOWING IS NOT JUST ABOUT MONEY OR THINGS! SOWING IS A LIFESTYLE OR LIFE LONG PRACTICE! (V.1)

Brethren, if a man be overtaken in a fault, ye which are spiritual, restore such an one in the spirit of meekness; considering thyself, lest thou also be tempted.

1. There is seed connected to all we do!
2. Every action, every word is a seed!
3. We are sowing seed as we handle other people and their problems!
4. As we sow acts of kindness and compassion we are preparing for a harvest of kindness and compassion!
 - This is serious business and we need to understand that!
 - 1 Tim 6:12

Fight the good fight of faith, lay hold on eternal life, whereunto thou art also called, and hast professed a good profession before many witnesses.

B. THE PRINCIPLES OF SOWING AND REAPING ARE AS SERIOUS AS ANY BIBLICAL PRINCIPLE! (V.7-9)

- What are these principles?
 1. Our harvest will always match our seed type! (v.7 & 8)

Be not deceived; God is not mocked: for whatsoever a man soweth, that shall he also reap.

8 For he that soweth to his flesh shall of the flesh reap corruption; but he that soweth to the Spirit shall of the Spirit reap life everlasting.

- a. Paul is very clear that whatever we are planting we will reap!
- b. He then explains the types of seed.
- c. Seeds that focus upon the flesh and its desires and Seed that have eternal connections!
- d. When we spend our lives sowing to our flesh and ignoring the eternal we cannot expect a Spiritual / Eternal harvest!

Illustration: The Song, “The Cats in Cradle”

2. Our reaping is in proportion to our sowing! (A Harvest matches the amount of seed sown!) (2 Cor. 9:6)

But this I say, He which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.

- a. If you sow a little don't expect a lot of harvest!
- b. If you sow a lot you can expect a huge harvest!
- c. This is so very simple!

3. Spiritual Farming is an exercise in patience and endurance! (v.9)

9 And let us not be weary in well doing: for in due season we shall reap, if we faint not.

The Amplified Bible...

And let us not lose heart and grow weary and faint in acting nobly and doing right, for in due time and at the appointed season we shall reap, if we do not loosen and relax our courage and faint.

The New Living Translation...

So let's not get tired of doing what is good. At just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing if we don't give up.

- a. It can be very tiring doing what is good! Especially when the whole world is doing wrong!
- b. But notice how Paul tells us that in due season, or as The New Living Translation says, at just the right time we will reap a harvest of blessing!
- c. But we must not give up!
- Giving up cancels out all the good that we have done!