

Step 5 – The Father’s Blessing, 5.1.16

Intro

1. Review the Five Keys & their overall purpose to bring us into true freedom.
2. Neal Lozano’s book, *Unbound*.
3. The power of a blessing – It establishes us in the love of God (identity) and in the plan (purpose) of God. In breakthrough, we demolish the enemy’s lie and then we’re rebuilt in the love of God. There is a correction/deconstruction followed by a restoration/reconstruction. Overcoming darkness is more than breaking agreement with the enemy, but it’s equally coming into agreement with God.
 - a. It’s not enough just to see the lie you must believe the truth. It’s just like salvation – it’s more than believing in your head, but believing in your heart.
 - i. Ill of having an attitude of rejection about you and it being broken. Now, you have to come into agreement with God’s acceptance of you.
4. Big Idea: To overcome darkness, we must live in the experience of the Father’s blessing.

What Is A Blessing

- A. In Hebrew, it means to speak well of others; in Gk, it means to speak a good word that comes from the heart of God. It’s to bestow God’s favor.
- B. The benediction of the worship service is a blessing from God for your life.
- C. Blessings establish our identity and purpose. We each need to be blessed. I don’t believe it has to come in formal pronouncements. More importantly, it’s through a deep assurance throughout our lives in the way we are treated, primarily through our parents. When we know that we are unconditionally loved and cherished it settles us; it makes us secure in the Lord. It’s important to have a verbal blessing, but what’s critical is to know that we are unconditionally loved and affirmed.

- D. Gen.1.26–28, 31a. Adam & Eve lived under the blessing of God and they knew their identity and purpose.
- E. When we speak a blessing, we speak God's heart and His thoughts into another person. When we affirm and encourage and call out the best in people, these are forms of blessings. When we assure our children of our love and support, we aren't saying we agree with their activity, but we affirm them of our commitment and unconditional love.

The Father blessed Jesus throughout His life to confirm His identity & destiny.

- A. Jesus was blessed at the major events in Jesus' life
 - a. At conception (L.1.29–34)
 - b. During Mary's pregnancy (L.1.42)
 - c. At his birth (L.2.8–14)
 - d. At his presentation at the temple (L.2.25–38)
 - e. At his baptism (L.3.21f) He was blessed by His Father and had not done anything.
 - f. At his transfiguration (Mt.17.5)
 - g. This was validated in John 13.3. The blessings of His Father assured Him of His identity and destiny.
- B. As a follower of Jesus, we are in Christ. God wants us to walk in the same confidence and abiding assurance that His Son experienced. Jesus lived in the reality of His Father's unconditional love. "1 John 4.16–18" Perfect love drives out all fear. He walked in the confidence of the Father's love and His divine call.
 - a. We can walk in the unconditional love of God even while the Lord corrects us. He could be both loving and adoring and righteous and just as our Father.

Satan wants to rob us of the Father's blessing. (Mt.16.21–23)

- A. Mt.16 – He's trying to trip Jesus calling.
 - a. When we miss our calling (the clear assignment(s) God has for us), it can affect our identity. This happened with King Saul. He missed the opportunity to obediently serve the Lord by taking on Goliath and it

created fear in him about David. He saw David as a threat to his identity, b/c he, King Saul, didn't fulfill his destiny. King Saul didn't believe God would give him victory over Goliath. His fear of completing his assignment created a fear in him about David.

- b. The reason some of you aren't living in your identity is b/c you messed up in your calling.
- B. Satan wants you to experience what he experiences every moment of every day. You are rejected, unforgiven, life is ruined, missed your calling, messed up your purpose in life, you are conditionally loved and it's beyond hope.
 - a. Identity = who I am in the sight of God.
 - b. Calling/Purpose = what I do as His child in both general & specific ways.
- C. If I don't live out of my identity in Jesus (as a son/daughter of God who is fully loved, enjoyed, accepted, cherished, forgiven, righteous, beautiful and heroic in God's eyes) then I try to find my identity or significance in activity. (work, parenthood, accomplishments, wealth, service to others, grades, degrees, friendships, children, hobbies, sports, ministry <some are serving in churches, b/c they are looking for the validation of their identity>, etc.). When you are seeking validation of your worth through activity you will never do enough. You have bought Satan's lie that states: Your identity/worth is based on your faithfulness or activity.
 - a. If you aren't established in who you are in Christ, you try to attain worth/value through what you do. This will result in several negative outcomes:
 - i. You will become like the older brother in the story of the prodigal son.
 1. You will see yourself superior to others and judgmental. You will compare yourself by virtue of your performance, actions, abilities, beliefs, position or whatever to others..
 2. You will become disappointed with God when you don't get the acknowledgement or answered prayer or the blessing b/c of your faithful service.
 3. It's the idea: "I did this and now you are supposed to do that."

- ii. When you fail or don't accomplish as much or don't do as much, you will call into question who you are. You become like the prodigal son – "I'm not worthy to be called your son, I'm awful, a failure, never get better, etc. You will either live in discouragement or frustration. You won't believe in your identity.
 - b. Satan wants you to think you are a hopeless hypocrite; you are what you do & if you're not doing then you can't be close to God. He wants you to live in regret, pain and confusion. He doesn't want you to let go of the past; He wants you to think some things are too great to get past. You are forgiven, but you are damaged goods. It's a lie. My identity isn't any more dependent upon me than salvation is dependent upon me!
 - i. Do you want to receive God's approval? John 6.28–29. Believe in Jesus!
 - c. Therefore, if you mess up in what you do, it doesn't change how God views you! You are loved, cherished, accepted, forgiven and redeemed!
- D. If I mess up on my calling/purpose (doing what God desires for me), then it can negatively impact my identity. Example of committing terrible sin, I would begin questioning my identity. "How could I have...I'm really not what God says that I am...I don't feel righteous...I'm not worthy to serve God...I'm not pure and spotless...I don't act like a child of God...I'm not sure I am forgiven..." I think this is what drove Moses out into the desert. He killed a man and he ran away for 40 years. He knew he was called to greatness, but he messed it up and it drove him further away from God's purpose. You have bought Satan's lie that the failure to do/not do certain activities has impaired you identity before God.
 - a. If you aren't living from your identity, Satan can also stir anger. apathy and animosity in you towards God and others b/c of disappointments in your faith journey. You blame God or others for those disappointments, and say he doesn't care or He's not good.
- E. Satan doesn't want you to live out of your identity or walk out your calling.

The Father wants us to live under His blessing and...

- A. J.I.Packer quote

- B. Jesus received His Father's blessing and Js wants us to walk under the same blessing.
- C. He loves and accepts you as much as His own Son. Meditate upon Psalm 139; Ephesians 1-3, Romans 3 - 9 in NLT, Colossians 3, **John 17.26.**
 - a. As I come to understand the Father's heart more, then I will begin to walk in a deeper personal revelation of His love! The love that Jesus walked in will be a love that we will walk in!
 - b. The Secretariat analogy from Paul Keith Davis. Enlarge our capacity to both know God's heart and give God's heart.

He wants us to pass the blessing along (to our families & other believers)

- A. The touches, hugs, spoken words and affirming actions of the family blessing are important. By them, parents envision and speak identity, priceless value and a future for their children.
- B. **As parents, we must remember that correction has to do with performance and approval has to do with identity. If a child's identity isn't affirmed, then any correction sounds like rejection. We correct their performance; we affirm their identity.**
 - a. Illust of having to correct a child with a behavioral or addiction issue.
- C. We affirm identity and we encourage or correct performance.
- D. What if you didn't receive your parent's blessing? You are responsible for working through the change. We look at our lives with hope b/c of Rom.8.28.

Conclusion

1. CIM - To be free in Christ, we must live under the Father's blessing.
2. A Blessing by John Paul Jackson

CONCLUSION:

Some of you did not have great father figures. Some of you had fathers who passed away before they could give you a blessing. Others of you, for one reason or another, are unable to receive a blessing from your father. **To you, I want to offer the blessings of the Heavenly Father, through myself, an earthly father.**

This type of blessings is seen in Numbers 6, as God blessed the children of Israel under the pronouncement of Moses. It goes on to say that upon saying the blessing, God would place His name upon and bless those who hear it—that means you.

*Therefore, may “The LORD bless you and keep you;
The LORD make His face shine upon you,
and be gracious to you;
The LORD lift up His countenance upon you,
and give you peace.”
And from me,
May you reach the purpose for which you were created.
May you have courage above your peers.
May you have more passion for the things of God
than others think is necessary.
May you dream more than others think is practical,
and may you expect more than others think is possible.
May you choose wisely, without earthly bias.
You have people to influence that you have not yet met.
You have lives to change that are waiting for your arrival.
You are strategically placed wherever God takes you by His grand design,
just so you can become all He made you to be.
That place is the place you can best grow,
the place you can be most fruitful,
the place where the future is changed because of your presence.
May you see vistas that others do not even know exist.
May you see God in every petal of every flower
and in every blade of grass for each of them are designed by His hand.
May you bless your children
and may they become giants in the faith
under the mighty hand of God.
You will not fail,
you were made by God to be here—for such a time as this.*

