

Blessed to be a Blessing – Part 2

Introduction:

Last week we emphasized that God had blessed Abraham so that he and his descendants would be a blessing to others.

Gen 12:2 (NASB) And I will make you a great nation, And I will bless you, And make your name great; And so you shall be a blessing;

Gen 12:3 (NASB) And I will bless those who bless you, And the one who curses you I will curse. And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Theme: Because Job was a righteous man, he used his blessings to be a blessing to others.

I. Background.

A. The book of Job opens by introducing us to Job who is a righteous man.

Job 1:1 (NIV) In the land of Uz there lived a man whose name was Job. This man was blameless and upright; he feared God and shunned evil.

B. The narration then moves to an account of the manner in which Job was blessed by God.

Job 1:2 (NIV) He had seven sons and three daughters,
Job 1:3 (NIV) and he owned seven thousand sheep, three thousand camels, five hundred yoke of oxen and five hundred donkeys, and had a large number of servants. He was the greatest man among all the people of the East.

C. The account then describes for us Job's sincere faith in rearing his children.

Job 1:4 (NIV) His sons used to take turns holding feasts in their homes, and they would invite their three sisters to eat and drink with them.

Job 1:5 (NIV) When a period of feasting had run its course, Job would send and have them purified. Early in the morning he would sacrifice a burnt offering for each of them, thinking, "Perhaps my children have sinned and cursed God in their hearts." This was Job's regular custom.

D. Then we are introduced to a great question. Why does Job serve God?

Does Job serve God because of who God is or does Job serve God because of what God does for Job?

Job 1:8 (NIV) Then the LORD said to Satan, "Have you considered my servant Job? There is no one on earth like him; he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil."

Job 1:9 (NIV) "Does Job fear God for nothing?" Satan replied.

Job 1:10 (NIV) "Have you not put a hedge around him and his household and everything he has? You have blessed the work of his hands, so that his flocks and herds are spread throughout the land.

Job 1:11 (NIV) But stretch out your hand and strike everything he has, and he will surely curse you to your face."

- E. Of course, we discover that Job in sincerity serves God for who He is and not merely because of what God does for Job. This is evidenced by Job's continued allegiance to God despite the fact that all that God has blessed Job with is taken away from Job.

Job 1:20 (NIV) At this, Job got up and tore his robe and shaved his head. Then he fell to the ground in worship

Job 1:21 (NIV) and said: "Naked I came from my mother's womb, and naked I will depart. The LORD gave and the LORD has taken away; may the name of the LORD be praised."

- F. Job's friends are convinced that Job lost everything as a result of God's judgement. They assert that if Job were innocent then God would have treated Job differently.

Job 8:6 (NASB) If you are pure and upright, Surely now He would rouse Himself for you And restore your righteous estate.

- II. Job maintains his innocence by pointing out that he used his blessings to bless others.

- A. Job helped the poor and fatherless.

Job 29:11 (NIV) Whoever heard me spoke well of me, and those who saw me commended me,

Job 29:12 (NIV) because I rescued the poor who cried for help, and the fatherless who had none to assist him.

- B. Those who were dying praised Job because they knew that he took care of widows.

Job 29:13 (NIV) The man who was dying blessed me; I made the widow's

heart sing.

- C. Job treated everyone with equity.

Job 29:14 (NIV) I put on righteousness as my clothing; justice was my robe and my turban.

- D. Job helped those with physical disabilities.

Job 29:15 (NIV) I was eyes to the blind and feet to the lame.

- E. Job acted like a father to all who were in need.

Job 29:16 (NIV) I was a father to the needy; I took up the case of the stranger.

- F. Job came to the aid of the oppressed.

Job 29:17 (NIV) I broke the fangs of the wicked and snatched the victims from their teeth.

- G. Job's help was offered in sincerity not in self promotion.

Job 30:25 (NIV) Have I not wept for those in trouble? Has not my soul grieved for the poor?

- III. Job did not gain his riches at the expense of others.

Job 31:13 (NIV) "If I have denied justice to my menservants and maidservants when they had a grievance against me,

Job 31:14 (NIV) what will I do when God confronts me? What will I answer when called to account?

- A. Job was not like the rich man described in the book of James.

James 5:1 (NASB) Come now, you rich, weep and howl for your miseries which are coming upon you.

James 5:2 (NASB) Your riches have rotted and your garments have become moth-eaten.

James 5:3 (NASB) Your gold and your silver have rusted; and their rust will be a witness against you and will consume your flesh like fire. It is in the last days that you have stored up your treasure!

James 5:4 (NASB) Behold, the pay of the laborers who mowed your fields, and which has been withheld by you, cries out against you; and the outcry of those who did the harvesting has reached the ears of the Lord of

Sabaoth.

James 5:5 (NASB) You have lived luxuriously on the earth and led a life of wanton pleasure; you have fattened your hearts in a day of slaughter.

James 5:6 (NASB) You have condemned and put to death the righteous man; he does not resist you.

- B. Job did not consider himself to be of greater value than others.

Job 31:15 (NIV) Did not he who made me in the womb make them? Did not the same one form us both within our mothers?

- C. Job saw a necessity in sharing his blessings with others.

Job 31:16 (NIV) "If I have denied the desires of the poor or let the eyes of the widow grow weary,

Job 31:17 (NIV) if I have kept my bread to myself, not sharing it with the fatherless--

Job 31:18 (NIV) but from my youth I reared him as would a father, and from my birth I guided the widow--

Job 31:19 (NIV) if I have seen anyone perishing for lack of clothing, or a needy man without a garment,

Job 31:20 (NIV) and his heart did not bless me for warming him with the fleece from my sheep,

- D. Job used his influence not to pervert justice but rather to maintain justice.

Job 31:21 (NIV) if I have raised my hand against the fatherless, knowing that I had influence in court,

Job 31:22 (NIV) then let my arm fall from the shoulder, let it be broken off at the joint.

- E. Job was not corrupted by wealth because he continually feared God.

Job 31:23 (NIV) For I dreaded destruction from God, and for fear of his splendor I could not do such things.

- F. Job, though incredibly rich, did not rely upon his riches but rather relied upon God.

Job 31:24 (NIV) "If I have put my trust in gold or said to pure gold, 'You are my security,'

Job 31:25 (NIV) if I have rejoiced over my great wealth, the fortune my hands had gained,

Job 31:26 (NIV) if I have regarded the sun in its radiance or the moon

moving in splendor,

Job 31:27 (NIV) so that my heart was secretly enticed and my hand offered them a kiss of homage,

Job 31:28 (NIV) then these also would be sins to be judged, for I would have been unfaithful to God on high.

Job 31:29 (NIV) "If I have rejoiced at my enemy's misfortune or gloated over the trouble that came to him--

Job 31:30 (NIV) I have not allowed my mouth to sin by invoking a curse against his life--

Job 31:31 (NIV) if the men of my household have never said, 'Who has not had his fill of Job's meat?'--

G. Job saw his life as a means of blessing others.

Job 31:32 (NIV) but no stranger had to spend the night in the street, for my door was always open to the traveler--

H. Job was faithful in all of his business transactions.

Job 31:38 (NASB) "If my land cries out against me, And its furrows weep together;

Job 31:39 (NASB) If I have eaten its fruit without money, Or have caused its owners to lose their lives,

Job 31:40 (NASB) Let briars grow instead of wheat, And stinkweed instead of barley." The words of Job are ended.

IV. Conclusion: