BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING

Genesis 12:1-3 – From the beginning, God blessed ... & from the beginning, that blessing was meant to RADIATE!

* What does being “blessed” entail?
  > Blessings are not necessarily ...
    (1) MATERIAL THINGS
    (2) FINANCIAL
    (3) ENJOYABLE – Laura Story’s song; Unanswered Prayers; I Peter 3:14

Psalm 1:1-3
→ How do we obtain blessing?
  (1) AVOIDING SIN
  (2) HAPPILY following God’s law – not LEGALISM, which doesn’t bring happiness.
    -- ex: Parents refusal to let Beth try auxiliary team.

→ What are the benefits of blessing?
  (1) FRUITFULNESS * key: “IN SEASON” – you can’t force fruit – it comes in God’s timing! Ex: evangelism
  (2) PERSEVERANCE * consistency – our gifts and ministry should be LIFE-LONG
  (3) PROSPERITY * success in ALL ENDEAVORS (the MIDAS touch!)

Psalm 1 definition of **blessing**: “the happy condition of those who REVERE the Lord and do His WILL.

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BLESSING: ACTION or REACTION?

* Don’t wait to be blessed by God before blessing others!
  -- 1Peter 3:8-9 – By blessing others we INHERIT God’s blessing
  -- We DEMONSTRATE our desire to be a blessing and that INVITES more divine blessing!
  -- The Sowing/Reaping principle
BLESSING: God’s HANDS on ME ... so I can be HIS HANDS on OTHERS.

* Blessing is more GIVING than RECEIVING! Acts 20:35 – Jesus’ words (1 Clement 46:7)
  -- Dayton Birt: “We GIVE to GET to GIVE to GET to ...”

* Blessing is doing GOD’S WORK! John 12:13 – a quote from Psalm 118:25-26
  -- “in the name of the Lord” – acting in God’s AUTHORITY

* Blessing is bring Jesus TO THE WORLD! Luke 1:48
  -- Why would Mary be called blessed? She brought forth Jesus.
  -- Similarly, God has chosen you to bear Jesus to a world that desperately needs Him!

BLESSING: REVERSE the CURSE

* Jabez’s Prayer – 1 Chronicles 4:10  “Jabez” =PAIN
  -- Apparently, Jabez ‘lived down’ to his name. To what are we living down?
    - Small expectations? - Doubt? - Familial curses? - Poverty?

* His blessing: How Jabez was freed from pain

    (1) Enlarged TERRITORY – source of WEALTH and INFLUENCE

    (2) God’s HAND upon Him – represents God’s FAVOR and INVESTMENT

    (3) SAFETY – spiritual & physical

* It’s WISE to seek God’s blessings! Ask for it!
  -- Avoid the “I never pray for myself” syndrome.

A personal blessing testimony

Closing: Let’s seek His blessing AGGRESSIVELY ... and dish it out just as AGGRESSIVELY!!!

Next week: When “Bless You” is more than a Sneeze Response!