



“Blessings Part 3-” 11-20-16



Please catch recent sermon series at our website www.ENJOYLWC.com
Also find the “BEACON Devotional” at the website.

We like to start with something funny each week: Its been a month and a half of bow season and NO DEER. Opening day has come and gone – still NO DEER. Then I see it! At the end of my road there was this sign:



“Deer Hide”(Like NO KIDDING! They are hiding well!) Then I get closer to my



house and there is THIS SIGN! :

So- I see where I need to make adjustments in my future hunts! Lol.



We have a tradition: Grab your Bible and hold it up today:

“THIS IS MY BIBLE

I am what it says I am!

I HAVE what it says I Have!

I CAN DO what it says I can do!”

Today I WILL be taught the Word of God,

I boldly CONFESS: My Mind is Alert,

my Heart is Receptive, I will NEVER be the same, In Jesus name. (Pray)



Week 1 we talked about “The Blessing of God’s PRESENCE!” Moses took time to get in his TENT ALONE WITH GOD! Then share HIS presence with others!



Week 2 we talked about GOD’s encouragement (Burning bush experience)
We are encouraged to encourage others!



Today, in Part 3, THANKSGIVING WEEK! We want to talk to you about “The blessing of God’s PROVISION!!”

GOD by His name **Jehovah Jireh** means **“The Lord provides”!** That was first spoken by Abraham when God provided the ram in the thicket so that he didn’t need to sacrifice his son Isaac. (In that moment Abraham’s ULTRA -TEST would become his ULTRA-TESTIMONY!)

Have you and I been TESTED? (Really PR! It’s “Thanksgiving!” and you are teaching us to enjoy being tested!?) well, not really.

I want to remind us all that **OUR DESTINATION** is bigger than the moment we are **struggling in** (repeat that)

So Let me encourage you today! Some of us here this morning are in the middle of our biggest test! Would you dare to let that TEST become your TESTIMONY?

Illustration: Anyone remember when we were meeting in the American Legion and the Springwater Firehall!? I may not have shown it, but I was really sweating it there! We felt VERY TESTED as a church! We were in TRANSITION between the Lodge and the new property! And when I thought I might lose my mind – out of the blue this building was offered to us at Christmas Time for \$1!! Our test became a testimony! BUT WE FORGOT HOW hard it was to setup equipment each day, run a video screen so people in the other room could see from the Legion main room! Wow! We are blessed!

In our questions in Devotions on Thursday night from Nick: “ What one thing did you want to do for the Lord but didn’t because you were afraid you would fail?”

- I blurted it right out! **“BUILD THE CHURCH MULTIPURPOSE BUILDING!”**

TRANSITION FROM HARDSHIP AREAS IS TOUGH!!! (where LIFE is unbearable in Egypt but it feels “safer” then getting out of Egypt and it’s slavery **and transition** through the wilderness to the PROMISED LAND of FREEDOM/ PLENTY!)

All of us struggle with some transitions! We embrace the HARDSHIP OF EGYPT instead of committing to the DESTINATION OF THE PROMISED LAND!

- **Bitterness transition** is self satisfying and seems fulfilling to submit to pity and anger! BUT God wants to take you thru the desert of humility to get you to the AMAZING P.L. of ☺!
- **Debt transition** has you enslaved to 4 jobs and you now break the Sabbath law to honor God in rest. We need to cross the wilderness of discipline in how we spend God’s Money and enter a P.L. of financial freedom and “Blessed to be a blessing!!!!”
- Maybe you are in a **sinful habit transition** right now (yep, that thing you just thought about). How is that working for you? That sin has cost you more than you can afford. And God wants your soul to live in the P.L. of HEAVEN – so (Mt. 5:29) **“If your eye causes you to sin, gouge it out. It would be better to lose one part of the body then for you whole body to be cast into hell.”**

That transition from Hardship to Promised Land is like

Moses had come back from the burning bush (from last week sermon) **FIRED UP TO SET ISRAEL FREE FROM EGYPT! “NEW THINGS”** but the hardship is Pharaoh! **INCREASED PRESSURE** by making the Israelites make the same number of bricks but now they had to get their own straw! So they fell behind, got beaten down.....

The people were angry with Moses (Exodus 5:21-23)



“May the **LORD** judge and punish you Moses for making us a stench before Pharaoh and his officials. You have put a sword into their hands, and given them excuse to kill us!” (Exodus 5:21) (“you came back to save us?? We hate you Moses!)
GOD SAW THE DESTITUTION! THE PEOPLE COULD ONLY SEE SHORT TERM PAIN.



“Moses returned to the Lord and said, “O Lord, why have you brought trouble upon this people? Is this why you sent me? Ever since I went to Pharaoh to speak in your name, he has brought trouble upon this people, and you have not rescued your people at all.”
Exodus 5:22

(COME ON-we have all felt that way at times)

Exodus 6:6-12 (NLT) God reply’s to Moses:



6 “Therefore, say to the people of Israel: ‘I am the **LORD**. I will free you from your oppression and will rescue you from your slavery in Egypt. I will redeem (buy you back) you with a powerful arm and great acts of judgment. **7** I will claim you as my own people, and I will be your God. Then you will know that I am the **LORD** your God who has freed you from your oppression in Egypt. **8** I will bring you into the land I swore to give to Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob.(The Promised Land-Canaan) I will give it to you as your very own possession. I am the **LORD!**”

God was saying: **I am GOING TO TRANSITION YOU FROM LACK TO PLENTY-(7 Things God will DO!) WHO WANTS THIS:**

- Free you from oppression (at work/ school? God may not change circumstance, but free you mind)
- Rescue you from slavery (Some of us enslaved to our phone, our worldly pleasure – be free!)
- Redeem you (give a ransom for you! You are so important to GOD!)
- Claim YOU! (not on His taxes mind you!) He sees YOU as worthy to say “That’s my kid!”
- Be YOUR God! (AMEN!! Sometimes we forget how much WE NEED GOD!)
- I will bring you into the promised land! (“He who began a GOOD WORK in you – is faithful!)
- I will GIVE it to you! (All of it’s PLENTY! I freely GIVE YOU!)

Israel should have had a THANKSGIVING PARTY after what God just promised them! But no, The MOST SHOCKING PART OF THIS SERMON is the people’s response:



⁹ So Moses told the people of Israel what the LORD had said, **but they refused to listen anymore.** **They had become too discouraged by the brutality of their slavery.** (you see, they missed last week's sermon- "Encouragement of God!" That refusal to listen cost hundreds of thousands of the 2 million people who left Egypt **THEIR VERY LIVES!**)



Church, Please hear me! Don't be DISCOURAGED IN YOUR TRANSITIONS OF LIFE!! From Disappointment to PROMISED LAND! GOD HAS PROVIDED EVERYTHING YOU NEED FOR LIFE and GODLINESS! HE IS JEHOVA JEHIRA! "PROVIDER IN TRIAL"

Accept HIS

- **BLESSED PRESENCE**
- **BLESSED ENCOURGEMENT**
- **BLESSED PROVISION for this moment of testing and transition.**

PC: God has blessed us with His Provision ...but not just so we can enjoy the blessing and be thankful for the blessing...It goes a step further....



I AM BLESSED SO I CAN BLESS OTHERS



2 Corinthians 9:8 says **And God will generously provide all you need. Then you will always have everything you need and plenty left over to share with others. -II Corinthians 9:8 NLT**

So we are not blessing hoarders. God has blessed us with his PROVISION, and we have the opportunity to bless to others with that PROVISION!

God PROVIDED so much for the Israelites... throughout the entire book of Exodus.

- When they were in Egypt He gave them what they needed.
- Then He delivered the OUT of Egypt because that is what they needed.
- And when they were wandering the desert for 40 years, He provided:
 - Food
 - Water
 - Protection
 - Direction
 - God provided structure for the Israelites when He gave them the 10 Commandments and the laws.

They had to work together and help each other in order to survive.

The Bible is very clear that we are to SHARE THAT PROVISION that God has blessed us with...



1 John 3:17 says “If anyone has material possessions and sees a brother or sister in need but has no pity on them, how can the love of God be in that person?”



Hebrews 13:16 says “...do not forget to do good and to share with others, for with such sacrifices God is pleased.”

- It IS A SACRIFICE to help someone with Thanksgiving dinner.
- It IS A SACRIFICE to buy a gift for a needy child
- And teens... it IS A SACRIFICE to share that pizza you brought home,, that you bought with your own money (wait..or is it God's money?)

But those sacrifices are worth it...because with such sacrifices GOD IS PLEASED...

There's so many FANTASTIC parallels in the story of Exodus with us today.

As God provided the Israelites deliverance from slavery in Egypt

He provided us with deliverance from the slavery of SIN.



¹⁶ From [God's] abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another. ¹⁷ For the law was given through Moses [it was through the law that the people received salvation in the Old Testament], BUT God's unfailing love and faithfulness came through Jesus Christ [when He died on a cross and suffered and died once and for all for our sins so we could be forgiven and spend eternity with HIM!] John 1:16-17 (NLT)

Here's the thing...When God provided the MANNA in the desert for the Israelites. God told them to take some of it and ...keep it for the generations to come, so they can see the bread that God provided in the wilderness when He brought them out of Egypt. Exodus 16:32

They were to PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS...TESTIMONY

And we are to PROVIDE EVIDENCE OF GOD'S FAITHFULNESS...



Isaiah 43:20-21

²⁰ The wild animals honor me,
the jackals and the owls,
because I provide water in the wilderness
and streams in the wasteland, (why does God provide?)

to give drink to my people, my chosen,

²¹ the people I formed for myself (why?)

that they may proclaim my praise.

God knows our needs....He provides our needs...and our part is to PRAISE HIM.

Our praise not only keeps us looking at God...provides testimony to those around us to God's faithfulness.

When the Israelites were grumping and complaining through the dessert they weren't helping themselves or anybody else.

When we are grumping and complaining through our desert, we aren't helping ourselves or anybody else.



I Thess. 5:18 Give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Christ Jesus.

When we have a thankful spirit IN ALL CIRCUMSTANCES, we are obeying God, receiving His Blessing and Blessing those around us.



Blessed with the Provision of God / Enjoy the blessing - BE THE BLESSING

PR: In the week of "Thanksgiving"

"Its not happy people who are grateful, it's grateful people who are happy!"

CLOSE WITH GREAT IS THY FAITHFULNESS

Let's all pray this out loud together repeat after me **"Lord Jesus (repeat), forgive me of my sins (repeat), come into my heart (repeat), I make you my Lord and Savior (repeat)."**

Romans 10:9 "If you declare with your mouth, "Jesus is Lord," and believe in your heart that God raised Him from the dead, you will be saved. For it is with your heart that you believe and justified, and it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved."

Extra info:

God Provided Protection –

- You give protection to someone by simply being a friend so they don't feel alone.
- By sending an encouraging text to someone who may feel scared.
- By sitting with them at the lunch table so they won't be bullied

God Provided Structure –

- Do you know that Structure actually provides SAFETY as well?
- If you are a parent...one of the greatest things you can do for your children is provide a simple structure to your home. Don't be afraid of having rules...even if they fight it. Ultimately it helps them feel safe. (but they might not admit it)

God Provided Direction –

- Well if someone is lost and you know the area you can tell them which way to go, but let's think SPIRITUAL DIRECTION.
- If we get our DIRECTION from God, then when someone is talking to us and they are "lost" and need "directions" we can tell them how God helps us...and show them how to have a personal relationship with the God of the Universe so they can have DIRECTION too

