



“Blessings Part 1- Blessing others with our presence” 11-6-16



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: Joke: I heard about a pastor who was stepping up to give his Sunday morning message with a **BIG BANDAGE ON HIS CHIN**. Self consciously he said, “I am sorry about this. I cut my chin this morning while I was thinking about my sermon.”

Someone near the front shouted back **“Next time: think more about your chin and CUT THE SERMON!?”** (Steve Sick: “And I approve of this message” lol)

- It’s really Not that funny.)



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)



Today, week #1 of a 3 part series we want to talk to you about “The blessing of GOD’S PRESENCE”

Two truths we want to establish throughout the whole series each week:

1. **“I Am Blessed by God!”** (John 1:16 NLT) ¹⁶**From his abundance we have all received one gracious blessing after another.**^[a]
2. **“I Am Blessed To Bless Others!”** (Say out loud this morning)

THE greatest blessing we have from God: His presence IN MY LIFE. (The absence of God’s presence is something we have NEVER KNOWN – it would be the very definition of HELL/ TOTAL FEAR and DREAD. We too often take HIS PRESENCE for granted)

Illustration: When I was a kid- I was afraid of the dark! (slept with door open and hall light on!) Had flashlights to go to bathroom! I’d like to tell you that I grew out of it! I just have BIGGER flashlights now that my DAD isn’t with me. Ha ha. [The ONLY TIME I TRULY felt safe to be in the dark without a flashlight was with my DAD walking with me (on that dead end road we lived on). His PRESENCE brought comfort, safety, security, JOY. Peace]

Today: Let's see How MOSES found the Peace, security, Hope, JOY, THE BLESSINGS of GOD'S PRESENCE in the MIDDLE OF

- Transition from slavery to the promised land
- Disappointing people to lead! Disappointing people to deal with (anyone relate?)
- As he had the task of leading the crying complaining Israelites into the desert of UNCERTAINTY! (anyone feel that is your place in this world this week? LISTEN UP!)

Exodus 33:7-17 (this story comes immediately after the Israelites built a golden calf while Moses was getting the 10 commandments from the Mt. Of God (Mt. Sinai)



7 Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." "Whenever the people of the Lord would go to meet him, they would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp." And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. And whenever he went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses.

Exodus 33:7-9

7 Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." ("It might have looked something like this!") **Pop the tent up!** Now Moses used to take a tent and pitch it outside the camp some distance away, calling it the "tent of meeting." Anyone inquiring (seeking the Lord) of the Lord would go to the tent of meeting outside the camp. 8 And whenever Moses went out to the tent, all the people rose and stood at the entrances to their tents, watching Moses until he entered the tent. 9 As Moses went into the tent, the pillar of cloud would come down and stay at the entrance, while the Lord spoke with Moses. (GOD'S VERY PRESENCE was within this pillar of cloud!)



10 Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to his tent. 11 The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend. Then Moses would return to the camp, but the young men, whether one of their did not hear the Lord.

Exodus 33:10-11

10 Whenever the people saw the pillar of cloud standing at the entrance to the tent, they all stood and worshiped, each at the entrance to his tent. 11 **The Lord would speak to Moses face to face, as a man speaks with his friend.** (Did you REALIZE that you can have face to face encounter with GOD thru the H.S. right now! The promised H.S. is HERE and available to be PRESENT WITH YOU! 24/7! But He is a gentleman. Jesus knocks, but won't break into your home. **(Get outside tent)** Jesus says in Rev.3:20 "Behold I stand at the door and knock. If anyone hears my voice and opens the door I will come in and eat with them and they with me.")

- Notice that God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Spirit ALL desire to be PRESENT WITH US in RELATIONSHIP! (Sometimes do you wonder which part of the TRINITY to pray to "Dear God hear my cry", "Good Morning Jesus! Forgive me for my attitude", "H.S. I need your COMFORT right now!"
 - All 3- Father, Son, H.S. were Present at Creation! (genesis)
 - God the Father is the figure head the first 4000 years since creation
 - Then comes Jesus, the promised son of God to be introduced to the world to "Take away the sin of the world" and "Rescue the perishing!" to be the Sacrifice ONCE and FOR ALL! (the PERFECT SACRIFICIAL LAMB !)
 - And then God the Holy Spirit sent into all the world at Pentecost, 50 days after Jesus Resurrection. (The "Comforter has come" The Guarantee of our salvation..... so we can "Know that we know we are saved!"



And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you.

John 14:16-17

- *And I will ask the Father, and he will give you another Counselor to be with you forever— 17 the Spirit of truth. The world cannot accept him, because it neither sees him nor knows him. But you know him, for he lives with you and will be in you. -John 14:16-17 NIV*

- We often think of blessing as a
 - A good paying Job [Small 'b' blessings!]
 - A nice house
 - A gentle supportive spouse

- A loving church.
- BUT THE MOTHER LOAD OF 'BIG B' BLESSING IS EXPERIENCING THE PRESENCE OF THE ALMIGHTY THRU RELATIONSHIP!!!! Amen!?! You alive out there!?
- **PITCH A TENT IN HIS PRESENCE** (Devotions!) and see something supernatural happen!!!

"The Lord said to the Lord, 'You have been looking for me. Look! These people are here, but you have not let me know when you will come with me.' 'You have been looking for me, but you have not let me know when you will come with me.' 'If you are pleased with me, look! My presence will be with you, and I will give you rest.' 'The Lord replied, 'My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest.'"

Back to Moses: Then Moses would return to the camp, but his young aide Joshua son of Nun did not leave the tent. (WHY?? I had to know! Joshua isn't having this conversation with God, but he is IN THE TENT! He is in this small space (that same small one YOU LIVE IN!).

- Maybe you are NOT MOSES today! You are Joshua! You are wondering why u are here!
- It's TO WATCH and LEARN of How God interacts with us! learn ☺
- AND IMPORTANT NOTE TO SELF! You won't always have Moses with you to lean on. (I WOULDN'T ALWAYS HAVE MY DAD TO LEAN ON!) Joshua would enter the promised land without Moses! SO! GEAR UP FOR BATTLE in your tent with GOD!)

Moses goes on: 13God, If you are pleased with me, teach me your ways so I may know you and continue to find favor with you. Remember that this nation (Israel- that stiff necked people) is your people." (AMERICA GOD! THIS IS ONE NATION UNDER YOU!!! REMEMBER THAT TUESDAY PLEASE!)

14 The Lord replied, (with His most important promise) "My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."

- God will not guarantee we will win every skirmish But **"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."**
- God does not promise that every day I will be healthy, But **"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."**
- God doesn't tell me that the pathway will always be smooth, But THE BLESSING OF **"My Presence will go with you, and I will give you rest."**

Pitch your tent of meeting with GOD and HIS PRESENCE WILL

- **Fill you!**
- **& His blessed " Presence will go with you, and will give you rest."**

PC:

God has blessed us with His Presence...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



We cannot be blessing hoarders. God has blessed us with his presence, and we are a blessing to others by our presence!

(Like Moses, the people would come to the tent too, Joshua was there....the Blessing of God's Presence wasn't just for Moses....it was meant to be shared!)

Don't underestimate the power of your presence in someone's life. We often talk about the power of what we say or what we do, but there is tremendous power in just simply BEING THERE for somebody. (Because sometimes there is nothing to say)

But the power in our presence isn't just that we are fabulous people (although, I know you are all fabulous people)....the POWER is that **we bring the Presence of the Holy Spirit with us.**



¹⁵ Then Moses said to [God], "If your Presence does not go with us, do not send us up from here. ¹⁶ How will anyone know that you are pleased with me and with your people unless you go with us? What else will distinguish me and your people from all the other people on the face of the earth?"

¹⁷ And the Lord said to Moses, "I will do the very thing you have asked, because I am pleased with you and I know you by name." Exodus 33:15-17

The Presence of the Holy Spirit in your life sets you apart, makes you different than people you meet each day that don't know Jesus as their Savior. Not because you are better than anyone, but because you hold the Hope they are longing for...but you're going to miss the opportunity for them to see it if you are NOT FULLY THERE.



It's possible to be there (physically) but not be there (mentally, emotionally, spiritually)...

- Our devices have not helped us in this.. It's harder than ever in this generation to be disciplined and engaged where we are right now.
- Our schedules are too full so we are constantly thinking about the next thing.

For example, right now GOD'S PRESENCE IS FULLY HERE. And for you to be FULLY HERE means that

- We aren't worried about what we are having for lunch later at the Harvest Dinner
- We aren't concerned about what so-n-so might be thinking and doing
- We aren't checking our phones to see if anyone has connected with us on social media...

Why? Because the GOD OF THE UNIVERSE is HERE, and HE HAS A MESSAGE FOR Each one of us...and WE need to be **fully present** so WE DON'T MISS IT!

In the same way, we need to be FULLY PRESENT WITH EACH OTHER.

- If you stop your schedule to play a game with your kids, or help them with something they need, don't keep checking your phone to see what alerts will pop up. (works both ways)

- If you are going to spend an evening at dinner with your spouse, focus on them....don't be texting with anyone else.

Develop the Ability to Listen

There is a reason God gave you two ears and only one mouth.

Listening requires learning and discipline. It requires us not being concerned about how what they are saying affects us... **Instead... What about the person behind the words?** We are so quick to speak to defend ourselves, or to instruct, to set the record straight, to formulate our next thought that makes us look good or gets our way. Maybe the person just wants to be heard.

If you study the life of Jesus, when He was with someone, He took time for them, He was fully engaged....HE LISTENED TO THEM.

- The women at the well. John 4:1-42 (even though she was a foreigner)
- The woman that touched the hem of his robe so she could be healed. Luke 8:43-48 (even though she was considered "unclean" and it was a public place)
- Zacchaeus who climbed a tree to be able to see Jesus. Luke 19:1-10 (Even in the midst of a chaotic parade and Zacchaeus was a "tax collector")

And as followers of Christ...we follow His example...we take time for those He brings across our path...We CHOOSE to be fully engaged. What does that look like?

You're going about your day...

- Instead of ignoring people you walk by, you might give them a smile and say "Hello" (even if you don't know them) - That may be the only kind words spoken to them that day!
- Instead of quickly brushing people off because you have SO MUCH to do, you sit a listen to them, and accept them – You may be that only person in their lives that makes them feel like they matter.
- You're at the election...waiting in line to vote. Instead of joining in the negative talk that's based on FEAR, bring stability to the conversation by reminding people that God is still in control no matter the outcome.
- You may be the only JESUS some will ever see...Don't miss the opportunity.



BLESSED WITH THE PRESENCE OF GOD

ENJOY THE BLESSING - BE THE BLESSING

PR:

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:

There was a study that discovered that personal happiness actually correlates very closely with being fully engaged where you are at. They discovered that when our minds wander we are as much as 68% less happy than when we are focused. So in other words: our minds don't wander because we are unhappy....we are unhappy because we can't keep our minds from wandering. (Matt Killingsworth with the app Track My Happiness)