

AT HOME SPRING THEME 2014

BUILDING INTENTIONAL FAMILIES BY BEING A BLESSING

MEDIA REFERENCE NUMBER JH360 MARCH 16, 2014

THE TITLE OF THE MESSAGE:

“BECOMING A BLESSING”

BUILDING INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN FAMILIES

SUBJECT TOPICALLY REFERENCED UNDER:

Maturity, Marriage, Family, Discipleship, Christianity

Introduction to the Text; 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

We give high acclaim to such people like Galileo and Kepler, and so we should. We honor those who have affected our lives like Newton and Washington, Einstein. And in our day - we hold men like Abraham Lincoln or Steve Jobs high because we have been blessed by their contribution to our world... But, their influence wanes in comparison to the mothers and fathers, or grand-parents whose role model or impact has played or is playing a far greater influence upon us today. So then the question is - - how do we make a difference in the lives of those closest to us? = By Becoming a Blessing.

Becoming A Blessing

(first let's talk about the word "Blessing" because many think that that word is just a "warm-and-fuzzy" expression)

We say and hear things like "God bless you" and "What a blessing"

and "I was so blessed" but sometimes I hear the request – Pastor Jack, will you pray a blessing upon my life or our family?'

But what is this person asking for when they ask for a blessing?

blessed GRK: εὐλογέω **eulogeo**, yoo-log-eh'-o; to yield the knee. to add to or to increase the value of something or someone. to prosper another. to speak well of another.

blessed HEB: *baw-rak*; **barak**, to bless God or to be blessed of God. To curse God or to be cursed of God. **The context determines it's usage and meaning.**

Deuteronomy 30:19

I call heaven and earth as witnesses today against you, that I have set before you **life** and **death**, **blessing** and **cursing**; therefore choose **life**, that both you and your descendants may **live**;

In a litany of names recorded in the Bible,

There is record of names found in 1 Chronicles 4...

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Now **Jabez** was more honorable than his brothers, **and** (but) **his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."** **10** And **Jabez** called on the God of Israel saying, "**Oh, that You would bless me indeed, and enlarge my territory, that Your hand would be with me, and that You would keep me from evil, that I may not cause pain!**" So God granted him what he requested.

Jabez had been plagued by a series of unfortunate events.

- (1) He had a rough entry into this world.
- (2) He caused his mother great suffering.
- (3) His name had stuck with him throughout his life.
- (4) He took his grief to God.

The context, the meaning of his name was changed forever.

Words Matter and What We **Say Matters**
Much More Powerful Than We Often Realize.

Isn't it interesting that when God desired
to communicate to mankind, He did so by "Speaking"

Gen. 1:3

God **said**, "Let there be light"; **and there was** light.

Isn't it interesting that when God desired to communicate to mankind he did so by sending us His "**Word**". And when God desired to express to us His love He did so by inviting us to know His **Word**. And when God desired to save us from hell and destruction He did so by giving us His own dear Son who was, The **Word** of God.

BECOMING A BLESSING

BUILDING AN INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY BY THE WORDS WE USE

1.) Words are like a mold

v.9

1 Chronicles 4:9-10

Now **Jabez** was more **honorable** (+/-) than his brothers, **and** (but) **his mother called his name Jabez, saying, "Because I bore him in pain."**

Jabez HEB: yah-bates'; to bring grief and sorrow. a great pain or sore displeasure. pain in the heart.

In the Negative;

The words we speak and hear can discourage and steal our security and hope for the future because of how they affect our spirit.

But In the Positive;

The words we speak and hear encourage us and build our security and hope just as God's word does for us.

Gen. 5:2

He created them **male** and **female**, and **blessed** them and called them **Mankind** in the day they were created.

**A "pronounced blessing" is a bigger deal than we think.
Jesus used the Blessing to affirm children.**

Mark 10:13-16

Then they brought little children to Him, **(1 attention) that He might touch them;** **(2 physical affirmation)** but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. **14** But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, **"Let the little children come to Me, (3 personal availability) and do not forbid them; (4 generous acceptance) for of such is the kingdom of God. 15** Assuredly, I say to you, **whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it."** **(5 full acknowledgement) 16** And He took them up in His arms, laid His hands on them, and **blessed** them.

"That He might touch them"

blessed εὐλογέω **eulogeo**, *yoo-log-eh'-o*; to add to or to increase the value of. to prosper. to speak well of another.

That's why we do a Blessing here for the little children.

Today we **laid hands** on Assemblyman **Mike Morrel** and **prayed a blessing** for him and upon him.

Words are like molds that make patterns in our lives

Ariel - the lion of God // Maayan – a spring of water
Elad – God is eternal // Elon – the oak tree

BECOMING A BLESSING

BUILDING AN INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY BY THE WORDS WE USE

2.) Words are like power-tools

v.10

And Jabez called on the God of Israel saying, “Oh, that You would bless me indeed,

The Spoken Blessing in Scripture

(Genesis 27) = Isaac spoke a blessing upon his sons
(Genesis 49) = Jacob spoke a “blessing” upon his sons.

We have underestimated the power of the spoken blessing.

We know that God takes it very serious and when it is spoken it carries with it great power. It appears to “apply to the object in mind”

In the Negative;

If we are not verbally speaking a blessing – we are creating a vacuum and when that happens, the child will seek out another to fill the void.

But In the Positive;

Give confidence and worth and value so that a child does not need to compromise or to act in a desperate manner.

I remember when in America a young man would seek out the blessing of a future father-in-law to ask him for his daughters hand in marriage - - the father’s “yes, I approve and affirm your request for my daughter” was a blessing beyond money or power.

BECOMING A BLESSING

BUILDING AN INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY BY THE WORDS WE USE

3.) Words are like more than words

V.10

and enlarge my territory,

enlarge

HEB: rabah, raw-baw’; grow up, heap up, increase, add to

*If you and I didn’t have a blessing from our parents - -
We can ask God for His*

To this day, my wife Lisa can tell you

where she was and what was going on around her when her dad said for the first time or very rarely, = “I love you Lisa”

I can tell you that it was a Saturday morning in the summer of 1979
When I said to my dad, “I love you dad” and he said back to me “I love you too”
That was the first time I had ever heard him say that, and it was unforgettable.

The Lack of a Blessing is Not a Good Thing.

Silence breeds confusion and a child has been designed to not only hear a blessing but process those words and to repeat those words.

**Silence is not a good thing regarding a blessing.
It must be expressed in verbal ways and with appropriate touch.**

Concerning the Spouse, Child, Parent in Your Life;

Start with (1) good character traits about them and “become a blessing” about that thing.

BTW – You cannot **Become a Blessing** without being blessed yourself.

For some of us, this will be harder to do than for others, why?
Because, to those who have been injured by words, words are hard to come by.

Luke 6:45

A good man out of the good treasure of his heart brings forth good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart brings forth evil. For out of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaks.

BECOMING A BLESSING

BUILDING AN INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY BY THE WORDS WE USE

4.) Words are like a great fortress v.10

that **Your hand** would be with me,

Jabez' Request was to ask God if He would be his fortress.

Prv. 18:10

The name of the LORD is a strong tower; The righteous run to it and are safe.

Fortresses Good. // Fortresses Bad

The words we hear Build Up or Tear Down.
They are never neutral

Obviously the man who said *“sticks and stones may break my bones but words will never hurt me”* was a man who had been deeply wounded by words. - - **“Denial is no help”**

Parenting is hard work but extremely rewarding. Grandparenting is pure joy but even more rewarding than parenting.

Because we've learned what to say and what not to say.

Eph. 4:29 NIV

Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, **but only what is helpful for building others up**

1 Thessalonians 5:11 NIV

Therefore **encourage** one another and **build** each other up.

BECOMING A BLESSING

BUILDING AN INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY BY THE WORDS WE USE

5.) Words are like fences in the night v.10

and that You would keep me from evil,

Children who grow up without a sense of a parental blessing will go about looking for a counterfeit blessing, because in the heart of that child, a flawed blessing is better than no blessing at all.

God's "Blessings" to us, are they not like fences"
Be like this, not like that. // Do this and live. Don't do that you'll die.
be kind to others, hate evil. // Have compassion, Lean upon Me.

Here's a "Fence" Blessing you can give.

Prov. 3:1-6 NLT

My child, never forget the things I have taught you. Store my commands in your heart. **2** If you do this, you will live many years, and your life will be satisfying. **3** Never let loyalty and kindness leave you! Tie them around your neck as a reminder. Write them deep within your heart. **4** Then you will find favor with both God and people, and you will earn a good reputation. **5** Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. **6** Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take.

BECOMING A BLESSING

BUILDING AN INTENTIONAL CHRISTIAN FAMILY BY THE WORDS WE USE

6.) Words are like creation itself

"that I may not cause pain!" So God granted him what he requested.

If you're a student of the Bible you've noticed

that many times a man or a woman had a name that often described their personality and actions throughout their lives.

(why is that? - - because most often they became what their names meant)

In Israel Today, it is still the same.

Ariel - the lion of God // **Maayan** - a spring of water

Elad - God is eternal // **Elon** - oak tree

Geffen = Cluster of Grapes or a Grapevine

Shoham = a stone upon the breastplate, - Joy

Carmel = a garden or orchard.

Neva = an oasis

Jesus = Salvation

What's Really Wrong with America

America is Fatherless = A Personal Plea.

In the absence of both a loving Father AND Mother in the home is the single most destructive force happening in America today.

A child MUST have the love and nurturing that ONLY a MALE-FATHER can give and at the same time, ONLY what a FEMALE-MOTHER can give. In concert, together shaping that child.

Science has proven that no one is born gay – Rather science has proven that the Environment molds and shapes and creates a child's worldview and identity.

Be Committed.

This is for the rest of your life toward others. train yourself to become a blessing to your children and others from this day forward.

Loving Touch.

Physical contact is one of the most powerful things known to us. Just as physical abuse is so destructive, a caring touch, a safe embrace can heal and satisfy many emotions.

Express Value.

Verbal encouragement and expression is like making a deposit in a bank, the future will be made stronger if you do and so will it be for your child.

See Potential.

Parents, grandparents are experts at discerning gifts and talents in a child. When we talk about or pray a blessing on our children, speak of those character qualities that you see and add (bless) them even more.

Say It.

Simply being in the home isn't enough. A blessing must be spoken or written down or both - - but it must be shared with the child. Just say it.

Maybe today you've discovered that you've never experienced a blessing upon your life and so you have never given a blessing. Well, I wanna pray for you today, give a blessing to you.

Num. 6:22-26

And **the LORD spoke** to Moses, saying: **23** "Speak to Aaron and his sons, saying, 'This is the way you shall bless the children of Israel. Say to them: The LORD bless thee, and keep thee: **25** The LORD make his face shine upon thee, and be gracious unto thee: **26** The LORD lift up his countenance upon thee, and give thee peace.

end