

WHAT'S NEXT?

GETTING MORE OUT OF YOUR SUNDAY SERVICE



April 19, 2021

This week we are looking at our response to Pastor Ronnie Phillips Jr.'s sermon titled, "Are You Blessed?" (Luke 6:27-38). Take time to examine this message more closely, alone or with a family or friend. This message will also be discussed on Sunday in many LifeGroups at Abba's House.

1. In this message Pastor Ronnie takes on one of the most controversial and divisive topics related to religion—prosperity. While religious and non-religious people have strong opinions about prosperity, Jesus took on the subject of how to prosper in his Sermon on the Mount. In this message He gave us the beatitudes and described some of the unusual circumstances that produce blessings in our lives. Stop and read Luke 6:27-38.
2. What is the difference between prosperity and the prosperity gospel? Pastor Ronnie explains the mindset and lifestyle of a believer who enjoys true biblical prosperity. Go back through the message and write down the ways this important principle has been perverted and list the biblical attributes of a generous lifestyle. How does your life measure up? Are you giving to get? Are you stingy, and unwilling to let go of what God wants you to invest into others and into His kingdom? Are you inspired to grow in this important principle?
3. Prosperity doesn't begin in your bank account. Pastor Ronnie explained that it begins in your mindset. The beatitudes are about character, your spiritual nature. This sermon by Jesus in Luke 6 challenges you to go deeper in your walk with Christ, challenges you to humble yourself and forgive those who have hurt you. **Prosperity on earth that is not submitted to Christ will only lead to a harvest of what the world can give.** If you want to be eternally blessed, walk in Christ-like character. How? Live humbly, give generously, forgive others, share the gospel, and advance His Kingdom!

WHAT'S NEXT:

If you are living under a curse of poverty, repent of your limiting mindset and any behaviors in your life that may contribute to your current situation. Allow the work of Jesus Christ in your life. Lay down those limiting mindsets. Begin to release what God has placed in your hands. Begin today to order your life, bring your faith, finances, and family to Jesus. **Begin to walk by faith, believing that you are blessed in order to be a blessing and that all that you have is HIS!** Watch this change in your mindset produce blessings in your life and in the life of others.

GOING DEEPER:

Introduction: What is the definition of Blessed?

6 meanings: barak: favored, mercy, prosperity, increase, happiness, contentment.

Are you blessed? The beatitudes tell us that you are blessed when you give. The beatitudes are about character, your spiritual nature. This sermon by Jesus challenges you to go deeper in your walk with Christ, challenges you to humble yourself, and forgive those who have hurt you. If you want to be blessed, walk in Christ-like character (Luke 6:38).

Prosperity is different than the prosperity gospel. Because preachers have distorted and corrupted the principle of giving, people are reluctant to talk about generosity. For those of us in the Kingdom, we can receive a worldly harvest and a spiritual harvest. We have the ability as Christians to receive the best from both worlds because He owns it all. Generous people don't always give to get. It's just a part of their lives. It's ok to sow a seed for a harvest. But prosperity comes as the result of a lifestyle of generosity!

I. The Curse of Poverty

The Bible teaches us that the poor will always be with us and that we should care for the poor and the needs of others in difficult circumstances. However, a season of poverty is not the same as the curse of poverty. **We should have care and compassion for the poor, but we should also show them the way out.**

The blessings of God in Deuteronomy had to do with agriculture and economy. In the Old Testament, curses were reserved for people who were not faithful to God. There are penalties for not living and operating in Kingdom principles (Hebrews 6:8).

A. Poverty can cause your words to be ignored. When you have something to bring to the table, in any circle, people will listen to you. If you have nothing to sow and have achieved nothing, it will cause your words to be ignored. (Ecclesiastes 9:15-16)

B. Poverty can cause worry and stress. It's the second leading problem in marriages and leads to divorce. Poverty is not God's best for your life. Jesus died for your health, wealth, salvation, purpose, and family. God is the King of ALL Kings and He is able to do exceedingly above all we can ask or think.

C. Poverty is not God's best for your life. Jesus did not just die to give you a golden ticket into heaven. You can limit God to your denomination, but the true God is a King. Poverty just isn't God's plan. (3 John 1:2)

D. Disobedience to God's principles brings the curse. Sin produces poverty.

E. Hinders the work of the ministry. (Romans 10:13-15)
The work of the ministry costs money.

II. The Principles of Prosperity

First you need to be saved. You need an experience with God so that your heart, mind, and circumstances change. You have been born into a new destiny and a new future. You are transformed and recreated.

A. Identify your gift. You can sow all of your money and not be rich. You have to know who you are in Christ. What would someone pay you to do? What is special about you? What wakes you up? What has God gifted you to do? Many of us are doing jobs we hate and doing things we do not want to do. If God's not given you another job, He hasn't told you to leave. Identify your gift and operate in faithfulness. We don't have what we want because God can't trust us with it.

B. Work. You have to work. Stick with something. Sweat at something. Trust God in the process. (Proverbs 10:4)

C. Tithe. (Malachi 3:10-12)

We have to decide if we really believe the Bible or not. If we believe the Bible is the inerrant word of God, we should practice the principles found in it. Identify your gift, work in your gifting. Tithe. Then take a "SIP."

D. Sow/Invest/Plant.

Sowing blesses you. Tithing protects you. Sowing is above the tithe. If you want to prosper, invest. You won't reap a harvest if you don't plant (2 Corinthians 9:6-10 NLT).

III. The Enemies of Prosperity

A. Selfishness. The most blessed people are generous people. Selfishness is an enemy of prosperity. If you hoard, it will destroy your life.

B. Greed. (Proverbs 11:24)

C. Ignorance. Some people were born into poverty and God does not intend for you to remain in bondage. The more control the government has over you, the more bondage you will experience. Find someone who is living your dream. Let them teach you how to do it. Learn what you do not know. Ask questions. Don't miss a blessing because of your lack of knowledge. Once you learn it, put it into practice. Ignorance keeps you from the will of God. Find a skill, and put it to work (Isaiah 5:13; Proverbs 24:3-4 AMP).

IV. The Blessing of God

(Proverbs 10:22)

A. Used for God's Kingdom, money is not evil. It is the root of evil.

B. Used for God's Church, money a blessing. God wants to bless the church. We are in a war. The great hope of the world is the local church. You need to be in covenant with a local church, so the light will continue to shine in the darkness.

C. Enjoy, He has given us all things to richly enjoy. Are you blessed? God wants you to be! (Psalms 35:27)