



Week commencing 21st September 2020

House Group Bible Study - The Importance of Blessing

Prepared by David Parratt

Blessing

Today we want to look at the importance of blessing, as well as being blessed ourselves. We start with Psalm 103, reading the whole psalm, then give a few minutes for people to speak out their own thankfulness to the Lord for something in the psalm or any other blessings that come to mind :-

“We bless You, Lord, for.....”

Next, how do we bless one another? The classic blessing God gave to the children of Israel (Numbers 6:24-26) :-

**The Lord bless you and keep you
The Lord make His face to shine upon you
The Lord lift up His countenance upon you
And give you peace**

And “peace” here SHALOM is a very rich word, much more than lack of conflict, but including harmony, well being, good health, prosperity, wholeness, salvation - many of the things we want for each other.

John Trent and Gary Smalley in their book ‘The Blessing’ describe a blessing as connecting with the recipient with a spoken message, attaching high value to them, picturing a special future, and with an active commitment to follow up.

Often in the Bible it is shown being passed from one generation to the next, (e.g Isaac to Jacob in Genesis 27) but if you don’t have children or grandchildren of your own, how about choosing one of the young people in the fellowship to pray for and bless regularly?





Receiving a blessing is often very special. Janet still has in her bible a little piece of paper given to her over 30 years ago with Proverbs 20:15 “Gold there is and rubies in abundance, but lips that speak knowledge are a rare jewel”.

We can bless the place where we live. Proverbs 11:11 “By the blessing of the upright a city is exalted” . Without necessarily knowing all the details we can bless our estate/town in many aspects, our friends, neighbours, the families, businesses, schools, organisations, council,.....



We can bless as we go around, silently or quietly speaking good things over our surroundings, blessing the person in front of us-as we meet them.

Jesus also tells us to bless our enemies, those who persecute us, which can be quite a challenge. Most of us don't get a lot of that, but in the present climate where the tendency is to complain, to criticise, to blame, how about choosing to bless our government etc.?

- **How long could we go without speaking a negative word about anyone?**
- **How can we bless people particularly in a time of social distancing/lockdown?**
- **How can we be a contagious blessing as we go around?**

And in giving blessings, we are blessed!

