

Seek to Be a Blessing

(January 10, 2020, By Rev. Anthony Menzel)

What was last week's message?... (Seek the Lord While He May Be Found...)

The title of this week's message is "Seek to Be a Blessing."

The word "seek" is in both messages...

Before we enter into the meat of today's message, it is important to note that as human beings, we can do nothing of lasting good on our own...

John 15:1-5

"I am the true vine, and My Father is the vinedresser. ² Every branch in Me that does not bear fruit He ^[a]takes away; and every *branch* that bears fruit He prunes, that it may bear more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word which I have spoken to you. ⁴ Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me.

⁵ "I am the vine, you *are* the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing.

If we cannot do anything on our own, then what can we do?

The only thing we can do is take the first step of seeking or looking for and towards the Lord Jesus...

Then we have to let the Lord Jesus do the rest...

We have lean on Him and trust Him...

The first step is ours; all the following steps are basically His...

Philippians 4:13

¹³ I can do all things through ^[f]Christ who strengthens me.

Looking at this well-known verse, it is very important to remember that the only way we can do all things is by leaning on the Lord Jesus...

We cannot do it on our own...

The wonderful thing about seeking is that when we sincerely seek the Lord, He promises to bless us, sooner or later...

Jeremiah 29:4-14

⁴ Thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel, to all who were carried away captive, whom I have caused to be carried away from Jerusalem to Babylon:

⁵ Build houses and dwell *in them*; plant gardens and eat their fruit. ⁶ Take wives and beget sons and daughters; and take wives for your sons and give your daughters to husbands, so that they may bear sons and daughters—that you may be increased there, and not diminished. ⁷ And seek the peace of the city where I have caused you to be carried away captive, and pray to the LORD for it; for in its peace you will have peace. ⁸ For thus says the LORD of hosts, the God of Israel: Do not let your prophets and your diviners who are in your midst deceive you, nor listen to your dreams which you cause to be dreamed. ⁹ For they prophesy falsely to you in My name; I have not sent them, says the LORD.

¹⁰ For thus says the LORD: After seventy years are completed at Babylon, I will visit you and perform My good word toward you, and cause you to return to this place. ¹¹ For I know the thoughts that I think toward you, says the LORD, thoughts of peace and not of evil, to give you a future and a hope. ¹² Then you will call upon Me and go and pray to Me, and I will listen to you. ¹³ And you will seek Me and find *Me*, when you search for Me with all your heart. ¹⁴ I will be found by you, says the LORD, and I will bring you back from your captivity; I will gather you from all the nations and from all the places where I have driven you, says the LORD, and I will bring you to the place from which I cause you to be carried away captive.

Verses 11 and 13 of this passage are famous verses, but when we look at them in context, we see that God does not always promise to bless right away...

Sometimes we have to wait for our blessings...

However, if we keep seeking the Lord, we will find Him...

Matthew 7:7-11

⁷ “Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. ⁸ For everyone who asks receives, and he who seeks

finds, and to him who knocks it will be opened. ⁹ Or what man is there among you who, if his son asks for bread, will give him a stone? ¹⁰ Or if he asks for a fish, will he give him a serpent? ¹¹ If you then, being evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father who is in heaven give good things to those who ask Him!

***So now we can enter into the message of “Seek to Be a Blessing...”

1) First, seek to be a blessing to God...

One thing I have felt led to do by the Holy Spirit is to ask the Lord Jesus how He is doing every single day...

In my private time of prayer, I worship Him until He tells me that He feels good...

I can only imagine how sad God could feel most of the time...

Ephesians 4:25-31

²⁵ Therefore, putting away lying, “*Let each one of you speak truth with his neighbor,*” for we are members of one another. ²⁶ “Be angry, and do not sin”: do not let the sun go down on your wrath, ²⁷ nor give [\[g\]](#)place to the devil. ²⁸ Let him who stole steal no longer, but rather let him labor, working with *his* hands what is good, that he may have something to give him who has need. ²⁹ Let no corrupt word proceed out of your mouth, but what is good for necessary [\[h\]](#)edification, that it may impart grace to the hearers. ³⁰ And do not grieve the Holy Spirit of God, by whom you were sealed for the day of redemption. ³¹ Let all bitterness, wrath, anger, [\[i\]](#)clamor, and evil speaking be put away from you, with all malice.

The Holy Spirit, who lives inside of us, is continually grieved by our sin...

James 3:6-10

⁶ And the tongue *is* a fire, a world of [\[c\]](#)iniquity. The tongue is so set among our members that it defiles the whole body, and sets on fire the course of [\[d\]](#)nature; and it is set on fire by [\[e\]](#)hell. ⁷ For every kind of beast and bird, of reptile and creature of the sea, is tamed and has been tamed by mankind. ⁸ But no man can tame the tongue. *It is* an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹ With it we bless our God and Father, and with it we curse men, who have been made in the [\[f\]](#)similitude of God. ¹⁰ Out of the same

mouth proceed blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not to be so.

So I seek to be a bright spot in the universe for the Holy Spirit...
I seek to make the Lord Jesus feel loved all the time so that when He starts to feel sad because of all the evil in the world, He can think about people like me, who do our best to love Him...

I tell Him how I love Him...

I tell Him how I appreciate Him...

For His wonderful personality...

For the things that He has done for me...

For the excellent quality of His touches, which along with hearing from Him, are by far the best blessings in the universe...

John 7:37-39

³⁷ On the last day, that great *day* of the feast, Jesus stood and cried out, saying, "If anyone thirsts, let him come to Me and drink. ³⁸ He who believes in Me, as the Scripture has said, out of his heart will flow rivers of living water." ³⁹ But this He spoke concerning the Spirit, whom those ^[g]believing in Him would receive; for the ^[h]Holy Spirit was not yet *given*, because Jesus was not yet glorified.

I try my best to walk in continual repentance so that my worship will be pleasant and acceptable to Him...

1 John 1:9-10

⁹ If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us *our* sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. ¹⁰ If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.

Psalm 15:1-2

LORD, who may ^[a]abide in Your tabernacle?

Who may dwell in Your holy hill?

² He who walks uprightly,

And works righteousness,

And speaks the truth in his heart;

John 4:23-24

²³ But the hour is coming, and now is, when the true worshipers will worship the Father in spirit and truth; for the Father is seeking such to worship Him. ²⁴ God *is* Spirit, and those who worship Him must worship in spirit and truth.”

&&&&To start to please God, we have to accept Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior...

Prayer of Salvation with **John 14:6, Romans 10:8-9, Acts 17:30b, etc.**

***In addition to seeking to be a blessing to God, we should seek to be a true blessing to our fellow human beings...

Whenever we can help someone, we should do our best to do so...

Helping others is a means by which we also bless God...

Our worship does not please God if we are not helping other people the way we should or could...

James 4:17

¹⁷ Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do *it*, to him it is sin.

Young people especially need to grow in this area...

No one should have to tell you to help out...

If you see something that needs to be done and you can do it, you should just do it...

For example, if I see that the garbage needs to be taken out or if there are dishes in the sink and I have the time and strength to take care of those things, I should just take care of them...

When someone asks us to do things, we should not just do them half way...

Sometimes people actually do things half way in an attempt to see if they will not be asked to do those things again...

That is not how God wants us to be...

He wants us to do everything, whether it be doing the dishes, taking out the garbage, or mopping the floor, as if we were doing it directly for Him...

Colossians 3:22-25

²² Bondservants, obey in all things your masters according to the flesh, not with eyeservice, as men-pleasers, but in sincerity of heart, fearing

God. ²³ And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, ²⁴ knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for^[a] you serve the Lord Christ. ²⁵ But he who does wrong will be repaid for what he has done, and there is no partiality.

Verse 25 teaches us that sooner or later, there will be consequences for doing things half way.

2) Another thing that we should do as we seek to bless other people is to try to think before we make decisions, especially big ones that could affect other people...

One of our main goals in life should be

Proverbs 10:22

The blessing of the LORD makes *one* rich,
And He adds no sorrow with it.

I want to always be a blessing...

I want to make the lives of others rich by adding to their joy...

I want to make them rich by adding to their peace by adding to their stability...

When we have a position of power or authority, we should always seek to use it for good...

1 Chronicles 21:1-14

Now Satan stood up against Israel, and moved David to ^[a]number Israel. ² So David said to Joab and to the leaders of the people, "Go, number Israel from Beersheba to Dan, and bring the number of them to me that I may know *it*."

³ And Joab answered, "May the LORD make His people a hundred times more than they are. But, my lord the king, *are* they not all my lord's servants? Why then does my lord require this thing? Why should he be a cause of guilt in Israel?"

⁴ Nevertheless the king's word prevailed against Joab. Therefore Joab departed and went throughout all Israel and came to Jerusalem. ⁵ Then Joab gave the sum of the number of the people to David. All Israel *had* one

million one hundred thousand men who drew the sword, and Judah *had* four hundred and seventy thousand men who drew the sword. ⁶ But he did not count Levi and Benjamin among them, for the king's ^[b]word was abominable to Joab.

⁷ And ^[c]God was displeased with this thing; therefore He struck Israel. ⁸ So David said to God, "I have sinned greatly, because I have done this thing; but now, I pray, take away the iniquity of Your servant, for I have done very foolishly."

⁹ Then the LORD spoke to Gad, David's seer, saying, ¹⁰ "Go and tell David, saying, 'Thus says the LORD: "I offer you three *things*; choose one of them for yourself, that I may do *it* to you." ' "

¹¹ So Gad came to David and said to him, "Thus says the LORD: 'Choose for yourself, ¹² either ^[d]three years of famine, or three months to be defeated by your foes with the sword of your enemies overtaking *you*, or else for three days the sword of the LORD—the plague in the land, with the ^[e]angel of the LORD destroying throughout all the territory of Israel.' Now consider what answer I should take back to Him who sent me."

¹³ And David said to Gad, "I am in great distress. Please let me fall into the hand of the LORD, for His mercies *are* very great; but do not let me fall into the hand of man."

¹⁴ So the LORD sent a plague upon Israel, and seventy thousand men of Israel fell. ¹⁵ And God sent ^[f]an angel to Jerusalem to destroy it. As ^[g]he was destroying, the LORD looked and relented of the disaster, and said to the angel who was destroying, "It is enough; now restrain ^[h]your hand." And the angel of the LORD stood by the threshing floor of ^[i]Ornan the Jebusite.

There is more than one account in the Bible of this census...

Is taking a census something inherently evil?

Taking a census is just counting people...

It is not one of the sins that are listed as keeping us from going to heaven...

However, we have to remember that sin can be simply defined as disobedience to God...

When we define sin in this way, we see that even activities that are not inherently sinful can be sinful if we are disobedient to God in how or when we do them...

As a leader, King David's disobedience hurt a lot of people...

In any leadership role we may have, including the leadership role of a parent or mentor, it is really important that we influence other people for good because we can really damage the people that God has entrusted to our care if we are not careful...

Ephesians 6:4

⁴ And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.

Remember that someone may not be your biological child, but as your spiritual mentee, they are spiritual child...

1 Timothy 1:1-2

Paul, an apostle of Jesus Christ, by the commandment of God our Savior and the Lord Jesus Christ, our hope,

² To Timothy, a true son in the faith:

Grace, mercy, *and* peace from God our Father and Jesus Christ our Lord.

We have to correct our children...

Proverbs 13:24

He who spares his rod hates his son,
But he who loves him disciplines him ^[e]promptly.

But we should seek to never be abusive to them...

They should always know that they are loved and accepted by us...

They should know that we discipline them because we want them to achieve their full potential...

We should discipline them in this way because that is how God disciplines us...

Hebrews 12:5-11

⁵ And you have forgotten the exhortation which speaks to you as to sons:

“My son, do not despise the [c] chastening of the LORD,
Nor be discouraged when you are rebuked by Him;
6 For whom the LORD loves He chastens,
And scourges every son whom He receives.”

7 If [d] you endure chastening, God deals with you as with sons; for what son is there whom a father does not chasten? 8 But if you are without chastening, of which all have become partakers, then you are illegitimate and not sons. 9 Furthermore, we have had human fathers who corrected *us*, and we paid *them* respect. Shall we not much more readily be in subjection to the Father of spirits and live? 10 For they indeed for a few days chastened *us* as seemed *best* to them, but He for *our* profit, that *we* may be partakers of His holiness. 11 Now no [e] chastening seems to be joyful for the present, but painful; nevertheless, afterward it yields the peaceable fruit of righteousness to those who have been trained by it.