

BEING A BLESSING

INTRODUCTION

We are to be dependent on Jesus, but not in a passive way. We're active, but not in an independent way. It's active dependence on Jesus.

DISCUSSION

What are the worst clichés and slogans Christians use?
Why do you hate them?

EXPLANATION

What things in our world break your heart?
When and where are you sacrificially generous?
What things leave you discontented?
Describe what active dependence looks like in a real world situation.

APPLICATION

Read Mark 1:41, Matt 14:14, Matt 9:36.
How did Jesus put Himself in situations where He could help human suffering?
Does hoarding anything give anyone a joyful heart?
Why do you think so many people hoard?

MISSION

How could our personal generosity be a witness for the gospel?
Are there any areas around you where you want God to break your heart?
Are there any places that you or your gospel community could step into and be a blessing?

HOMEWORK FOR NEXT WEEK

Read Genesis 42-43:10.
Why is it important that we grow up?
What ways has God most grown you and taught you responsibility?



GENESIS

THE FINAL CHAPTERS

BEING A BLESSING

PART 61

GENESIS 41:41-57

Genesis 12:2
Genesis 41:38
Genesis 41:41-57

2 Corinthians 12:9
Mark 1:41
Matthew 14:14
Matthew 9:36

2 Corinthians 9:7
Isaiah 65:21-22
John 15:5

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

BAPTISMS
Next Sunday, 1pm
1371 Solomon Road.
Nacho Bar! Last name:
A-L Bring Meat
M-R Bring Cheese & Salsa
S-Z Bring Beans & Salsa

NEWCOMER PARTY
April 26th, 7pm

EKIDS! SPRING MARKET
April 20th, 9-3pm

YOUTH BREAKFAST
April 27th



GENESIS THE FINAL CHAPTERS: PART 61

BEING A BLESSING

Genesis 12:2 “And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.”

The account of the king’s appointment of Joseph over his entire kingdom continues to present a picture of Joseph that recalls the portrait of Adam in Genesis 1.

- Just as Adam is seen in the Creation account as dependent on God for His knowledge of “good and evil,” so Joseph also is portrayed here in the same terms.
- Just as Adam is made to rule on God’s behalf over all the land, so similarly Joseph is to rule on Pharaoh’s behalf over all his land.
- As Adam was made in God’s image to rule over all the land, so the king here gave Joseph his “signet ring” and dressed him in royal garments.
- Just as God provided a wife for Adam in the garden and gave man all the land for his enjoyment, so the king gave a wife to Joseph and put him over all the land.

While all of the parallels between Adam and Joseph may be merely accidental similarities, such patterns in the description of key characters are found often in biblical texts and would not be thematically out of place here. At many points in the story, Joseph appears to be represented as an “ideal” of what a truly wise and faithful man is like. He is a model of the ideal man or the ideal king. He accomplishes all that Adam failed to do. It seems likely then that a conscious purpose lies behind these similarities with Genesis 1 in the portrayal of Joseph.

The story of Joseph is a reflection of what might have been had Adam remained obedient to God and trusted Him for the “good.” At the same time, the picture of Joseph is an anticipation of what might yet still be, if only God’s people would, like Joseph, live in complete obedience and trust in God.

The picture of Joseph looks back to Adam; but more, it looks forward to one who was yet to come, Jesus. It anticipates the coming of the one from the house of Judah to whom the kingdom belongs. The final shape of the narrative, the tension between the house of Joseph and the house of Judah, which lies within many of these texts, is resolved by making the life of Joseph into a picture of the one who is to reign from the house of Judah, one who brings blessing.

TWO TYPES OF PEOPLE WHO FOLLOW JESUS:

1. **Those who don’t understand or want to change the world.**

Christians who have the wrong mindset always want to fight something, but Joseph looks around Egypt and he faithfully loves God and people.

2. **Those who look around in order to bless.**

Joseph gets thrown in jail and asks, “How can I bless?” Pharaoh comes to him and he asks, “How can I bless?” He gets put in charge of Egypt and asks, “How can I bless?” ...and he saved millions of people.

CHARACTERISTICS THAT DISTINGUISH THE LIFE OF A PERSON WHO ACTUALLY BECOMES A CONDUIT FOR GOD’S BLESSING:

1. **It is not somebody who is perfect.**
2. **It’s not about slogans.**

WHAT DOES IT LOOK LIKE TO BE A BLESSING?

1. **A willingness to let your heart be broken when you look at the world.**

There is a word used to describe Jesus over and over: *compassion*. Jesus consistently and deliberately put Himself in places where He could help human suffering.

2. **Sacrificial generosity.**

Jesus is the most generous person who ever lived; our God is infinitely generous.

3. **People who want to be a blessing live with a Holy Discontent.**

Shalom is where things are just the way God wants them to be...physically, spiritually, and relationally. The prophets said, “There is a way things were designed to be because there is a Designer.” They used pictures, images, metaphors, symbols, and stories to describe the way things are supposed to be.

- People beating swords into plowshares.
- The hearts of the fathers being turned toward their children.
- They said in *shalom* people *Is 65:21-22* “will build houses and dwell in them; they will plant vineyards and eat their fruit. No longer will they build houses and others live in them, or plant and others eat. They will not labor in vain, nor will they bear children doomed to misfortune; for they will be a people blessed by God.”

4. **Someone who is a blessing lives with a sense of active dependence.**

We are to be dependent on Jesus, but not in a passive way. We’re active, but not in an independent way. It’s active dependence on Jesus.

We pray, “Your kingdom come; Your will be done on earth as it is in heaven. God, use me.” It is active dependence. On our own, we can do nothing, but with Jesus... we can do great things.