

## Being a Blessing: Gen 12:3

USBC - 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008

### 1. Introduction

- Title is Being a Blessing
- At Jane & Bryan's wedding lots of prayers for 'blessing'.
- Twigg'd then (rather than before!) – what does it actually mean?!
  1. The act or words of a person who blesses
  2. A special favour, mercy or benefit – the blessing of liberty
  3. A favour or gift bestowed by God, thereby bringing happiness **[interesting that the whole notion of blessing is inherently linked to God]**
  4. The invoking of God's favour upon a person
- Invoke = to cause, call forth, or bring about.
- Be a blessing – cause, call forth or bring about God's favour upon a person.
- If that's within our gift – what a great gift to give! What a great focus of a life, what a great thing to say about someone – they go about their lives causing God to favour people.
- Not to gain God's favour, but as worship.

### 2. Why be a Blessing? God's Example

- I believe God is a God of blessing – he wants good things for his people. Why?
  - Creation
  - Fall – Tragic loss of intimacy – they hide. Loss of blessing.
  - Flood & Babel
- If we were God now, what would we do? We've made something to the design I had, but it's broken in effect. It's not fit for its original purpose.
- We'd throw it away surely.
- But God's heart is unchanged and he re-starts his plan. He still want a relationship with man – with his fallen people. And, for whatever reason, he settles on a man called Abram and his descendants.
- God chooses Abram – despite Abram's faults.
- And he starts this new relationship, with words of blessing. **A God of blessing**

*'I will bless you...you will be a blessing to others...all peoples on Earth will be blessed through you'.*

- And we live in the good of that blessing – a relationship with God – through Jesus, Abraham's descendant.
- And that's another way I know that God is a God of blessing – I look at what he was like when he was here.
- Jesus spent his life 'blessing' [invoking God's favour on] people. Teaching them, sharing with them, healing them, feeding them.
- As God started his relationship with Abraham with words of blessing, as Jesus blessed all kinds of people – I believe he wants to bless us too.

### **3. Blessed to be a Blessing: Ask for it and pass it on**

- How? God tells Abram that he will be a blessing to others – but it's preceded by God telling him that he will be blessed.
- We, all have many blessings. We're surrounded by so many blessings it's actually difficult for us to notice them! It's good to remember them – specifically.
- And those blessings, how would it be if we were to pass them on?
  - Wealth
  - Time
  - Health & strength
  - Skill
  - Home or family. Pass those blessings on.
- There's a phrase I heard in a talk once – 'Blessed to be a blessing'. The idea that we are blessed not for our own comfort but that we are blessed to be a blessing to other people. The idea even that we should be bold and faithful in claiming God's blessing for our lives, in order that we pass it on.

### **4. 'Invoking' Blessing**

- **Be a blessing – cause call forth or bring about God's favour upon a person.**
- Requires us to focus on 2 things – God and the other person (or people). Not on me.
- And our example, I believe, is Jesus. Healing, teaching, sharing, serving (John 13). And ultimately dying.
- What a place our churches can be if we were more concerned with being a blessing [invoking God's favour] to other people than anything else!! Barnabas – encouraging.
- A great thing to offer our community – to pray God's blessing on their lives.
- Who are you a blessing to? Doesn't have to be a big thing – Audrey
- Who could you be a blessing to – what is it you could share with them?

