



May 12-13, 2018

The Benefits of Serving Jesus You Are Blessed

I. The Rewards for Honoring Jesus

Hebrews 11:6 (NIV®)

⁶ And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that **he rewards those who earnestly seek him.**

Romans 3:1-2 (NIV®)

¹ What advantage, then, is there in being a Jew, or what value is there in circumcision? ² Much in every way! First of all, they have been entrusted with the very words of God.

1 Timothy 4:6-8 (NIV®)

⁸ For physical training is of some value, but **godliness has value for all things, holding promise for both the present life and the life to come.**

A. Blessings in both Time & Eternity ---

Ephesians 1:3-4 (NIV®)

³ Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, **who has blessed us in the heavenly realms with every spiritual blessing in Christ.** ⁴ For he chose us in him before the creation of the world to be holy and blameless in his sight.

Luke 12:15-21 (NIV®)

¹⁵ Then he said to them, "Watch out! Be on your guard against all kinds of greed; **a man's life does not consist in the abundance of his possessions.**"

¹⁶ And he told them this parable: "The ground of a certain rich man produced a good crop. ¹⁷ He thought to himself, 'What shall I do? I have no place to store my crops.' ¹⁸ Then he said, 'This is what I'll do. I will tear down my barns and build bigger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. ¹⁹ And I'll say to myself, 'You have plenty of good things laid up for many years. Take life easy; eat, drink and be merry.'" ²⁰ But God said to him, 'You fool! This very night your life will be demanded from you. Then who will get what you have prepared for yourself?' ²¹ This is how it will be with anyone who stores up things for himself but is not **rich toward God.**"

1 Timothy 6:17-19 (NIV®)

¹⁷ Command those who are rich in this present world not to be arrogant nor to put their hope in wealth, which is so uncertain, but to put their hope in God, **who richly provides us with everything for our enjoyment.** ¹⁸ Command them to do good, to be rich in good deeds, and to be generous and willing to share. ¹⁹ In this way **they will lay up treasure for themselves as a firm foundation for the coming age,** so that they may take hold of the life that is truly life.

Deuteronomy 28:2-8 (NIV®)

² **All these blessings** will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

³ **You will be blessed** in the city and blessed in the country.

⁴ The fruit of your womb **will be blessed**, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock--the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

⁵ Your basket and your kneading trough **will be blessed.**

⁶ You will be **blessed** when you come in and blessed when you go out.

⁷ The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

⁸ **The LORD will send a blessing** on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. **The LORD your God will bless you** in the land he is giving you.

Genesis 12:3 (NIV®)

³ "I will bless those who bless you, and whoever curses you I will curse; and all peoples on earth will be blessed through you."

Matthew 5:3-12 (NIV®)

³ **"Blessed** are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

⁴ **Blessed** are those who mourn, for they will be comforted.

⁵ **Blessed** are the meek, for they will inherit the earth.

⁶ **Blessed** are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they will be filled.

⁷ **Blessed** are the merciful, for they will be shown mercy.

⁸ **Blessed** are the pure in heart, for they will see God.

⁹ **Blessed** are the peacemakers, for they will be called sons of God.

¹⁰ **Blessed** are those who are persecuted because of righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.

¹¹ **Blessed** are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of me.

¹² Rejoice and be glad, because **great is your reward in heaven**, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

New Priorities

poor in Spirit

mourn

meek

hunger/thirst

merciful

pure in heart

peacemakers

insult/persecute

Priceless Outcomes

kingdom of heaven

comfort

inherit the earth

filled/satisfied

mercy

see God

kingdom of heaven

great reward in heaven

B. What Are You Choosing to "Be"

Matthew 25:1-13 (NIV®)

¹ **"At that time** the kingdom of heaven will be like ten virgins who took their lamps and went out to meet the bridegroom.

² Five of them were foolish and five were wise. ³ The foolish ones took their lamps but did not take any oil with them.

⁴ The wise, however, took oil in jars along with their lamps. ⁵ The bridegroom was a long time in coming, and they all became drowsy and fell asleep. ⁶ "At midnight the cry rang out: 'Here's the bridegroom! Come out to meet him!' ⁷ "Then all the virgins woke up and trimmed their lamps. ⁸ The foolish ones said to the wise, 'Give us some of your oil; our lamps are going out.' ⁹ "'No,' they replied, 'there may not be enough for both us and you. Instead, go to those who sell oil and buy some for yourselves.' ¹⁰ "But while they were on their way to buy the oil, the bridegroom arrived. The virgins who were ready went in with him to the wedding banquet. And the door was shut. ¹¹ "Later the others also came. 'Sir! Sir!' they said. 'Open the door for us!' ¹² "But he replied, 'I tell you the truth, I don't know you.' ¹³ **"Therefore keep watch,** because you do not know the day or the hour."

Summary

1. God responds to our life choices
2. "In Christ" ---blessings beyond imagination
3. Understand Kingdom values
4. Life beyond time
5. God is faithful & just

Prayer

Heavenly Father, thank You for my mother. In Your wisdom and purpose You placed us together. Only You could know the sacrifices and effort a mother invests. Please take note and pour out Your blessings upon my mom. Give attention to her prayers and comfort her, crown her head with joy and contentment. I bless her today, trusting You for Your best in her life, in Jesus name, amen.

Psalms 23:5 (NIV®)

⁵ You prepare a table before me in the presence of my enemies. You anoint my head with oil; my cup overflows.

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