

Blessing Others

In a village in Northern Zambia, some people were going hungry. The Life Group in the village decided to do something about this. Putting together what they had, they farmed a field of maize for those who needed food. Their actions ensured no one in the village went hungry and the other villagers were left amazed. They saw something profoundly different in this group of believers and this kindled their interest in Jesus.

Everyone wants to be happy. To be happy or blessed is a natural human instinct. Yet the word blessed means more than just to be happy. Happiness is an emotion usually dependent on what is around you. Being blessed refers to the well-being and distinctive joy of those who share in the salvation of the Kingdom of God.

Jesus was a remarkable blessing to other people. His purpose in coming was to be a blessing. He lived his life putting others first and he died to save us. Today the risen Jesus desires to bless us. However, do not be surprised that being blessed in Jesus' eyes does not look quite how we might think.

In Philippians 2, Paul talks about the life of Jesus and portrays him as the ultimate servant. He writes that Jesus "made himself nothing by taking the very nature of a servant." Think about that; Jesus, God himself, became a servant for us. If anyone had a reason to be treated like a king it was Jesus, but he chose to become a servant, giving himself away to the people who rejected him. This is how he became a blessing to so many.

God wants us to become servants as well. We are urged to have the "same mindset as Christ Jesus" and to "value others above yourselves". This means that we put the interests of God and the lives of others before our own needs, wants and dreams. When we live our lives in this way, we can be a blessing to the people around us.

This is not always easy as we are naturally selfish and put ourselves first. This is why people see something different in us when we put the needs of others before our own. That difference is Jesus. He has blessed us in so many ways. We can pass on that blessing to those around us by putting their needs before our own and becoming like servants as Jesus did.

Put it into Action!

Remember that we, like Jesus, are to be a blessing to others. Think about how you as a group of Christians can serve someone or something in your community. Maybe you could volunteer to help out at a clinic or school in your community. Perhaps you could find a way of looking after those who are in need by raising money or gathering food.

Pray that:

- 1) God will show you the needs he wants you to respond to.
- 2) God will give you the courage to step out in faith and put the needs of others before your own.



"Morgan" was 22-years old. He was addicted to alcohol. He saw us working together to farm a field for a lady with no food. He was confused why we were helping. We explained that we were passing on the love of Jesus to this lady. Morgan was so amazed he started coming to our group. He gave his life to Jesus."

- Pilius, Luapula, Zambia



This lesson is taken from "Blessing Those Around Us" taken from "Foundations 2: Life Grows".

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