

Coach House Church **BEACONS**

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BLESSING - THIS WAY ? THAT WAY?

Bekah and I are often in a hurry. We are not good at planning our life's tasks. We often set off with all good intentions, then realise that we really should have done the ironing when we said we were going to, but now 8 baskets waiting for us just seems like a massive mountain to climb.

Many of us are like this in life. We charge around often in a hurry. We don't realise the importance of getting good directions for life. If you follow God's directions for life however, you will enjoy his blessing and bring blessing to others, though the ironing will still remain.

When embarking on a journey the best time to get good directions is before you begin. Nowadays we all have a navigation device of sorts, a Sat Nav or in-car nav or phone nav, or sometimes the worst of all navs...a back seat driver nav. But we all at some point or other need guidance.

So how do we start our daily journey? ,how do we start our day?

Read Psalm 5:1-12

In the book of Psalm's chapter 5 in the bible, we have a wonderful example of how to begin each day: 'Listen to my cry for help, my King and my God, for to you I pray. *In the morning*, O Lord, you hear my voice; *in the morning* I lay my requests before you and wait expectantly' (v2-3). David is 'waiting for directions' (v8).

There is something special about beginning your day by letting God know your requests, your dreams, your hopes and fears. So after letting God know our requests, and as we are continuing our journey, regardless of destination we also have our "drivers handbook" set of rules we must follow.

Read Matthew 5:21-42

As Christians we should be following Jesus' directions. He wants us to be ruthless in dealing with every wrong attitude, thought, word and action we have.

Our words should be words of encouragement, not of anger. As we are all too aware words can give life but also can do harm.

Do not speak *angry words* against your brothers and sisters (v21–22). ‘The simple moral fact is that words kill’ (v22).

‘THE SIMPLE MORAL FACT IS THAT WORDS KILL’

We are called to do everything within our power to bless those we have fallen out with. If we remember a ‘grudge’ a friend has against us, we should go to the friend and try to ‘make things right’ (v23–24). If we encounter an ‘old enemy’ we should ‘make the first move; make things right’ with them (v25). This is tough because it means we have to step out of our comfort zone and make the first move..

We also need to guard what we do with our eyes and our heart. If we allow them to become corrupted then, far from being a blessing to others, we will ruin ourselves.

Jesus says it is not simply about the physical act: ‘Your *heart* can be corrupted by lust even quicker than your *body*. Those leering looks you think nobody notices – they also corrupt’ (v.28, MSG).

We are to live lives of complete integrity in which we say what we mean, and mean what we say: ‘Simply let your “Yes” be “Yes”, and your “No”, “No”; anything beyond this comes from the evil one’ (v37).

Blessing others means blessing even those who do bad things to us (v38–42). ‘Don’t hit back at all... No more tit-for-tat stuff. Live generously’ (v39,42). To give good for good is human. To give good for those who do us bad things is the way of Jesus.

What I love more than anything is when I go for a long walk, is to have someone with me who knows the way, every pathway, stumbling block and every turn. In life God offers to go with you and direct you one step at a time into a life of blessing.

Ultimately this promise is fulfilled in Jesus. He is the fulfilment of all the promises and hopes of Israel and through him ‘all people’ can be blessed.

So, what’s God’s purpose now?, what’s God’s purpose for you. The apostle Paul writes, ‘Those who *have faith* are children of Abraham. Scripture foresaw that God would justify the Gentiles (someone who isn’t Jewish) by faith, and showed the gospel previously to Abraham:

“ALL NATIONS WILL BE BLESSED THROUGH YOU.”

So those who rely on faith are *blessed along with Abraham*, the man of faith’ (Galatians 3:7–9).

The church is blessed, not for itself but in order to bring blessing to the whole world. If you have been blessed by God, it is not for you, its given that you may be a blessing to others.

What we must remember is the journey is not always entirely smooth. When you are disappointed by someone or something, resist the urge to give in to feeling angry or bitter.

Instead, 'look around from where you are' (v14); fix your eyes on God and see things from His perspective, not the enemy's. Trust Him to help you in these difficult situations, rather than trusting in yourself. His plan is to bless you.

FIX YOUR EYES ON GOD AND SEE THINGS FROM HIS PERSPECTIVE

It is only because of the grace of God that God promise's these amazing blessings. The intention was that us, like Abraham all those years ago would be a blessing to the whole world. You are called to live under God's blessing and bring blessing to those around you.

So lets fix our eyes on God, be a blessing to others as he blesses us.



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