

“He Will Bless What He Gives”
(Exodus 23:25)

I. Introduction.

A. Orientation.

1. Tonight, we’re returning to our series on the promises of God. We’ve seen so far that the Lord has given us many wonderful promises:
 - a. We saw first that He has promised to give you every good thing you need: both physical and spiritual.
 - b. We then turned to focus first on the physical blessings: That,
 - (i) He will give you the necessities of life: food and shelter.
 - (ii) He will give you a long life and the health to enjoy it.
 - (iii) He has promised to protect you.
 - (iv) To bring peace between you and your enemies.
 - (v) To guide you into all His will.
 - (vi) To honor you for your service to Him.
 - (vii) And to allow you to succeed in the things you put your hands to.

2. We also noted that there are some things you need to remember about these promises:
 - a. First, to whom they apply: they apply to you if you are a believer – if you have turned from your sins and trusted in Jesus.
 - b. Second, the conditions if you are a believer:
 - (i) You must be walking with Him in His ways – you can be a believer and still be disobedient – you need to obey Him.
 - (ii) And you must believe that He is faithful to make good on His promises.

 - c. And finally, His purpose behind the promises:
 - (i) That you would stop worrying about your needs.
 - (ii) And begin doing what the Lord has called you to do: which is, seek His kingdom.

B. Preview.

1. This evening, we’re moving on to the next promise: that the Lord will bless everything He has given you.
2. We’ll consider two things: If you will walk with the Lord,
 - a. He will bless your possessions.
 - b. And He will bless your household.

II. Sermon.

A. First, the Lord has promised to bless your possessions.

1. He will not only provide you with the necessities of food and clothing, as we’ve seen, but with many other things as well.
 - a. How many of you here have only your most basic needs met?

- (i) Probably no one. You all have more than the things Paul said we should be content with (1 Tim. 6:8).
 - (ii) Who gave you these blessings? The Lord.
- b. That's because there are blessings to be found in the path of righteousness.
- (i) The Lord says through Moses, "All these blessings will come upon you and overtake you if you obey the LORD your God . . . The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body and in the offspring of your beast and in the produce of your ground, in the land which the LORD swore to your fathers to give you. The LORD will open for you His good storehouse, the heavens, to give rain to your land in its season and to bless all the work of your hand; and you shall lend to many nations, but you shall not borrow. The LORD will make you the head and not the tail, and you only will be above, and you will not be underneath" (Deu. 28:2, 11-13).
 - (ii) When Paul writes, "Now to Him who is able to do far more abundantly beyond all that we ask or think" (Eph. 3:20), he doesn't mean just spiritually – though he does primarily – he is also referring to physical blessings.
 - (iii) He will meet your needs and more, if you will obey the Lord.
- c. This is true not only on a personal level, but also a national: the above promise from Deuteronomy applied to the nation of Israel.
- (i) If we are to see our nation prosper again, we must as a nation walk in the path of righteousness – there is no other way.
 - (ii) The Gospel provides the solution for all our personal and national woes, so pray and labor to bring the Gospel to as many as you can.
2. He will not only bless you with possessions, but He will bless your possessions.
- a. As we see in our text, "He will bless your bread and your water; and I will remove sickness from your midst" (Ex. 23:25).
 - b. He also says in Deuteronomy 28:3-6, "Blessed *shall you be* in the city, and blessed *shall you be* in the country. Blessed *shall be* the offspring of your body and the produce of your ground and the offspring of your beasts, the increase of your herd and the young of your flock. Blessed *shall be* your basket and your kneading bowl. Blessed *shall you be* when you come in, and blessed *shall you be* when you go out."
 - c. You will not only have them, but you will enjoy them.
 - (i) No one will be able to take them from you.
 - (ii) They won't wear out too quickly – as the Lord preserved the clothing of His people in the wilderness, so He will preserve what He gives you.
 - (iii) He will bless them to their intended purposes – which is what you're asking when you pray over your food – thanking God for His goodness and asking Him to sanctify it (1 Tim. 4:3).
 - (iv) Implied here is also the health to enjoy them.

- B. But this blessing applies to other things as well. Second, He will bless your household.
1. First, He will bless you with children.
 - a. You might think having children is just a matter of biology; but it's not.
 - b. The Lord is very much involved.
 - (i) He is the One who closes the womb.
 - (a) In Samuel, we read the reason Hannah, Elkanah's wife, could not bear children was because the Lord would not allow her to, "But to Hannah he would give a double portion, for he loved Hannah, but the LORD had closed her womb" (1 Sam. 4:5).
 - (b) The Lord was also said "to close fast all the wombs of the household of Abimelech because of Sarah, Abraham's wife" (Gen. 20:18).
 - (ii) Likewise, He is the One who blesses with children.
 - (a) As we've already read, "The LORD will make you abound in prosperity, in the offspring of your body . . ." (Deu. 28:11).
 - (b) The psalmist writes, "He makes the barren woman abide in the house as a joyful mother of children" (Ps. 113:9).
 - (c) He gave Abraham and Sarah a child when they were both far beyond the years of bearing; and after Sarah died and Abraham took a second wife, the Lord blessed him with many more children, so that he became the father of many nations, just as his name means.
 - (iii) Does this mean the Lord will always give us children if we meet the conditions? Not necessarily.
 - (a) Sometimes He will.
 - (b) But sometimes He will withhold children for reasons only He knows, but which we'll see later when He has brought about the good He intends.
 - (iv) And so the Lord promises to bless you with abundance, with His blessing on that abundance so that you can enjoy it, and with children.
 2. Further, the Lord promises to bring a blessing on your whole household, including your children.
 - a. He will do for them what He won't do for the unbeliever's child – remember, at first He rejected the Syrophenician woman's request for her child, until she displayed faith (Mark 7:27), while He received the children the Jews brought to Him, even rebuking His disciples for getting in the way (Matt. 19:14).
 - b. This is something, I hope, we all agree on, whether you're a paedo or credo Baptist.
 - c. Here are just a few passages that tell us as much.
 - (i) "So you shall keep His statutes and His commandments which I am giving you today, that it may go well with you and with your children after you" (Deu. 4:40).

- (ii) “A righteous man who walks in his integrity – how blessed are his sons after him” (Prov. 20:7).
 - (iii) In our call to worship, we read, “Praise the LORD! How blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who greatly delights in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed” (Ps. 112:1-2).
 - (iv) David writes, “I have been young and now I am old, yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken or his descendants begging bread. All day long he is gracious and lends, and his descendants are a blessing” (Ps. 37:25-26).
 - (v) Solomon writes, “The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the dwelling of the righteous” (Prov. 3:33).
 - (vi) The Lord doesn’t necessarily mean by this that all your children will be saved – though by His grace, they may be, and you should certainly pray and hope to this end – but it does mean that the Lord will take care of them and provide for them for your sake.
 - (vii) He did the whole nation of Israel for Abraham’s sake.
 - (viii) Here’s an incentive to godly living if there ever was one!
3. One question you would be justified in raising at this point is, How does this differ from the health and wealth movement?
- a. If you’ve ever been connected at all to those churches you know that this is virtually all they talk about:
 - (i) Whether or not they’re physically healthy.
 - (ii) Whether they’re physically wealthy.
 - (iii) The only “spiritual” thing they speak of is faith and the Spirit – faith to believe God will give you all these physical blessings and the Spirit to give you the gifts to confer these physical blessings.
 - b. How is what we’re looking at tonight different?
 - (i) For one thing, you should want these things for a different reason.
 - (a) You shouldn’t want health or wealth as an end in itself – so that you will have more energy to spend all your wealth on your own pleasure.
 - (b) You should want to be healthy that you might serve the Lord.
 - (c) You should want material wealth to take care of your family and to provide the resources necessary to build the Lord’s kingdom.
 - (ii) For another, you don’t believe that this health or wealth comes through your giving – as those who say you must give to their ministry.
 - (a) Rather, you know these blessings come through holiness – the very thing the health and wealth movements seem to know nothing about.
 - (b) You know the Lord will give you these things if you are truly His child – if you have repented and believed in Him – if you are walking with Him in holiness, and if you believe His promises.
 - (c) He will give them to you if you forsake the world, not embrace it, and seek the kingdom of heaven.

- (iii) You also know that all these things are subject to His will, not your desires.
 - (a) You know the Lord knows what's best for you, and will give you what's best.
 - (b) And so you leave it in His hands, as Agur did when he prayed, "Give me neither poverty nor riches; feed me with the food that is my portion, that I not be full and deny *You* and say, 'Who is the LORD?' Or that I not be in want and steal, and profane the name of my God" (Prov. 30:8-9).
 - (c) If the Lord knows you can handle more wealth, that it won't corrupt you and that you'll use it for the right things, He will give you more.
 - (d) But if He sees you can't, He will withhold it for your good.

- 4. The Lord promises to bless you with possessions, to bless all you possess, to give you children, and even to bless them.
 - a. He will do this for you, if you are His child.
 - b. He will do this if you walk with Him, if you believe His promises, if you seek first His kingdom and righteousness.
 - c. Here is everything you need, everything you hope for in life.
 - (i) You're not going to get it by naming and claiming it.
 - (ii) You're certainly not going to find it in the ways of the world.
 - (a) Those in the world often have great wealth and physical blessings, but they lack the spiritual blessing they need to enjoy it.
 - (b) Very often, it becomes a curse to them. Just look at the broken relationships, multiple marriages, and short lives of many of Hollywood's best.
 - (c) Again, the Lord says, "The curse of the LORD is on the house of the wicked, but He blesses the dwelling of the righteous" (Prov. 3:33).
 - (d) Just read some of the stories of the rich and famous and you'll see that this is true.
 - (iii) You'll only find blessing in the path of righteousness.
 - (iv) And so if you want these things, if you want these promises to apply to you, repent and believe in Jesus Christ, walk with Him in holiness, and then trust that He will take care of all your needs and do abundantly beyond all you ask or think. Amen.