

Sermon ~ Sunday, July 25, 2021, by Pastor, Dwight Benoit

Text: Matthew 16: 17 a/b

Title: "LORD, YOU Keep on **Blessing** Me!"

KJV— Matt. 16: 17, "And **JESUS** answered and said unto him, **Blessed** are thou,  
Simon Bar-jona..."

Amplified Bible— Matt. 16: 17, "**JESUS** answered him, "**Blessed** [happy, spiritually secure,  
favored [approved, supported by **GOD**] are you Simon son of Jonah..."

C. H. Rieu Translation— Matt. 16: 17, "**JESUS** said, you are privileged [special rights,  
advantages] Simon son of Jonah..."

J. B. Phillips Translation— Matt. 16: 17, "Simon, you are a fortunate man indeed!"  
[that is, you've received an unexpected, *undeserved* Source]

"LORD, YOU Keep on **Blessing** Me!"

Say with me, 'the *problems*' keep coming...

*Social* (Societal), *Sin* problems,

Respect, Gratitude, Justice for All (not just Y'all)  
Fair Pay, Getting People to Work, Poverty,  
Homelessness, Climate Control, Civil Rights,  
Racial Discrimination, Gender Confusion/Inequality,  
Health Care Availability, Childhood Obesity, Bullying (Abused of Authority),  
Poor Leadership, Broken Education Systems, because of Broken Homes/Families  
Social Media- Misinformation  
Overcrowded Prisons and the Desire to build more-Recidivism,  
Legal, Lawful Rights and Justices (Voting and ...)  
Pre/Post Pandemic Preparedness/Recovery (Vaccinations)  
Billions of dollars spent to fly to the edge of Space vs. Veterans Wholistic Recovery...

Enough of that...

When you say, you've been Blessed, are you saying, "I feel 'lucky' to have...

My health, I'm loved, a reputation, my talents

To have a job, a roof over my head, my family

"**LORD**, if you just get me through the night... and the next day, you right back at  
the same-o-same-o, and night is approaching again."

Some are only Blessed because they *sneeze*..."

When you say, you've been Blessed, are you saying, "I feel 'lucky' to have... what's entitled to  
me?" Church, **GOD** has been so *good* to us, [we've grown so accustomed], that we take  
**HIS Blessings** for granted.

"And **JESUS** answered and said unto him, Blessed [happy, spiritually secure, favored, approved,  
supported by **GOD**, privileged with special rights, advantages, fortunate, that is, to have  
received an unexpected, *undeserved* **Source**.. art *thou*, Simon Bar-jona...

Sometimes, it's easy to believe 'what' **The LORD** has already done, but difficult to imagine, that **HE** can do 'what no other can do!'

The *natural* man (woman) cannot receive the things of **The SPIRIT of GOD**.

1 Corinthians 2: 14, "But the *natural* [unbelieving] man (woman) does *not* accept the things [teachings and revelations] of **The SPIRIT of GOD [GOD'S WORD]**, for they are *foolishness* [absurd, illogical, ridiculous] to them; and he or she is incapable of understanding them, because they are *spiritually* discerned *and* appreciated, [and he or she is unqualified to judge spiritual matters]."

Point: Are you, am I, really Blessed? If we are just '*natural*,' we are just '*natural*.'

If we are 'of the *earth*, then we are '*earthy*.' Along, and of ourselves, we cannot know **CHRIST** in a personal way... we cannot know **CHRIST** through *natural wisdom* and *study*...

- We cannot *quicken* [make alive, give spiritual-life to] ourselves—*only JESUS!*
- We cannot *regenerate* [prefix '*re*' – again, suffix '*generate*' means '*to bring into existence*] ourselves—*only JESUS!*
- We cannot *transform* [change, after being with]—*only JESUS!*
- We cannot *redeem* ourselves—*only GOD→JESUS!* How?
- We cannot *infuse* ourselves with **Eternal Life**—*only JESUS!*

But *if* (since) **JESUS** said, Blessed... here are the *signs*...

Despite the problems...

1. I hunger and thirst 'to be right' and 'suffer lack,' to *not* compromise on **GOD'S WORD** and *spiritual principles*. Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.
2. I daily desire a 'pure heart [*conscience*] to see **GOD** [in everything]. I don't serve **GOD** to get 'brownie points.' I don't serve with 'ulterior motives—what's in it for me?' Blessed are the pure in heart: for they shall see GOD.
3. I recognize, I'm *not* all that, and a bag of chips. I'm *spiritually* bankrupt without **JESUS**. Blessed are the poor in spirit: for theirs is The KINGdom of heaven.
4. I'm have to *cry*, from time to time. Like a ship that's toss'd and driven; battered by angry sea. The *storms* of life are raging, and the fury falls on me. I wonder, what I done, to make this race so hard to run. *Oh*, but I say to my soul... Blessed are they that mourn: for they shall be comforted.
5. Be patient, humble, gentle and trust **GOD** to defend me against injustices. Trusting **HIM** to exact vengeance. Blessed are the meek: for they shall inherit the earth.
6. I treat people better than they deserve. Why? **GOD** is *good* [*gracious, merciful*] to me!!! Blessed are the merciful: for they shall obtain mercy.
7. *Peacemaker*. I just don't wait for *peace* to happen. I activate *Peace*. Blessed are the peacemakers: for they shall see GOD.
8. Since my quest is to do what's right, then I *expect* hatred, being excluded, ostracized, oppressed, harassed because of my **Faith in JESUS!** Blessed are ye, when men shall revile you, persecute you and shall say all manner of evil against you falsely, for MY sake. **Serving The LORD** will pay-off after while!!!

**"LORD, YOU Keep on Blessing Me!"**