

Getting what we need

- What are some things that we need and that we have to get from other people?
- How might we get those things?
- Getting what we need from God:
 - What do we need from God?
 - How might we get those things?
 - What is God's plan for giving what is good to us?

Divine Generosity

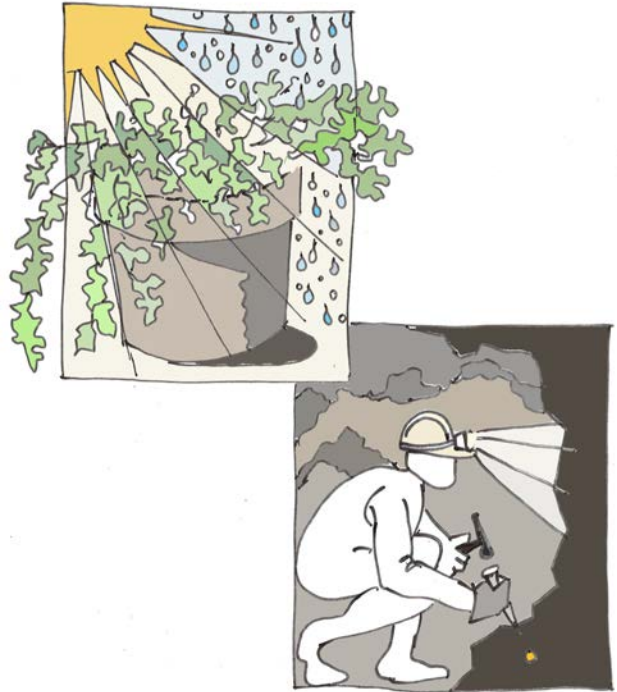
Numbers 6:22-27

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Blessing: Given and lost

Creation: God's action for Adam and Eve (the first humans)

God blessed them and said to them, "Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish in the sea and the birds in the sky and over every living creature that moves on the ground." *Genesis 1:28*

The effects of sin (disobeying God): when Cain killed his brother and God sent Cain away

Cain said to the Lord, "My punishment is more than I can bear. Today you are driving me **from the land**, and I will be hidden from **your presence** [face]; I will be a restless wanderer on the earth, and whoever finds me will kill me." *Genesis 3:13-14*

Setting for Numbers 6

People of Israel were preparing to enter the Promised Land

Expectations:

- You need to be in **the place** of blessing
- To bless, the gods demand gifts, sacrifices, begging, special people, religious actions, ...

God gives instructions through Moses to the people

- This is God's plan to bring blessing

Numbers 6:22-27

- 22-23: God's instructions through Moses for blessing
- 24-26: • God's initiative: "Here is the way to be blessed"
- 27: • Moses: a prophet speaks to people for God
- Aaron & sons: priests seek God's favor for people

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Numbers 6:22-27

- 22-23: God's instructions through Moses for blessing
- 24-26: The blessing
- 27: • Opposite of the curse: God's face/presence
- Gracious = show favor, generosity, rescue
 - "**Have mercy** on me, O God,
 according to your unfailing love ...
 Wash away all my iniquity
 and cleanse me from my sin." *Psalm 51:1-2*
 - Peace = Shalom
 - Peace, health, wholeness of mind, soul, body, relationships, ...

Poetry

וְיִשְׁמְרֶךָ: ם יְהוָה בְּרַכְךָ
 וְיִתְנֶהָ: ם אֱלֹהֵי פָּנֶיךָ יְהוָה יָאֵר
 וְיִשְׁלַם לְךָ שְׁלוֹמִים: ם אֱלֹהֵי פָּנֶיךָ יְהוָה יֵשְׂא

The LORD	bless you	and keep you
The LORD	make His face shine upon you	and be gracious to you
The LORD	turn His face toward you	and give you peace

Central to the blessing: Grace and peace
 in the name & presence of the LORD
 (New Testament: Lord = Christ)

Paul's greetings to those he loved

Grace and peace to you from God our Father and from the Lord Jesus Christ. *Romans*
 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *1 Corinthians*
 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Corinthians*
 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ, *Galatians*
 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Ephesians*
 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philippians*
 Grace and peace to you from God our Father. *Colossians*
 Grace and peace to you. *1 Thessalonians*
 Grace and peace to you from God the Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *2 Thessalonians*
 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. *1 Timothy*
 Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. *2 Timothy*
 Grace and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Savior. *Titus*
 Grace and peace to you from God our Father and the Lord Jesus Christ. *Philemon*

Numbers 6:22-27

22-23: God's instructions through Moses for blessing

24-26: The blessing

27: The rationale

- God's covenant name (LORD=Yahweh) on them
 - God blesses those who are in relationship with Him
 - "Christian": Jesus' name (relationship) on His people

→ God spoke to Moses

→ Moses spoke to Aaron (priests)

→ Aaron spoke to the people

- God said:

When you bless them, **I myself** will bless them

The Big Idea

**True blessing is only found
and is certainly found
in relationship with God in Christ**

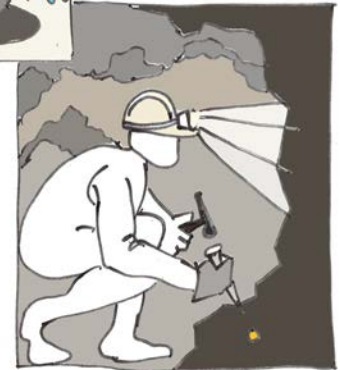
In search of blessing...

The overflowing goodness
of a generous God
who is eager to give
through His Son



or....

A diligent search
for rare gold



Application

- Be in relationship with God through Christ
 - God made us for blessing in relationship with Him
 - The problem: Sin separated us from God and His blessing
IMMORALITY DISLOYALTY INDEPENDENCE
 - Jesus Christ's death and resurrection are the only way back
 - "Salvation is found **in no one else**, for there is **no other name** under heaven given to mankind by which we must be saved." *Acts 4:12*
 - When we are **in Christ**, every blessing is ours
 - "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.**" *Ephesians 1:3*

Application

- Be in relationship with God through Christ
 - As for us, we were dead (separated from God) in our transgressions and sins. ...
But because of his great love for us, God, who is rich in mercy, made us alive (in relationship with God) with Christ even when we were dead in transgressions.
This is not from ourselves, and it is not earned.
It is the gift of God.

from Ephesians 2:1-9

Application

- Be in relationship with God through Christ
- **Seek** the blessing of God in Christ
 - “They loved human praise more than praise from God.”
John 12:43
 - Jacob (Israel) wrestled with God, and God blessed him
 - “I will not let you go until you bless me.” *Genesis 32:26*
 - How might we wrestle with God in pursuit of His blessing?
 - Not to convince Him to bless us → He is eager to bless!
 - Rather: to express the conviction that true blessing is found nowhere else, yet we tend to wander from Him

Application

- Be in relationship with God through Christ
- Seek the **blessing** of God in Christ
 - Rather than things or ease or success or pleasure or ...
 - Often God gives those things too
 - Whether or not He gives those things, He always gives the greater gift: Himself
 - “I will walk among you and be your God, and you will be my people.” *Leviticus 26:12*
 - “I say to the Lord, ‘You are my Lord; apart from you I have no good thing.’” *Psalms 16:2*

Application

- Be in relationship with God through Christ
- **Seek** the **blessing** of Christ
- Bring the blessing of God to others
 - Old Testament: **priests** brought God’s blessing to people
 - New Testament: **every Christian** is a priest
 - **Every one** of us is to bring the blessing of God to others
 1. Pray for people: for God’s presence, grace, and peace
 - Remember: the first steps could be harder, yet far better
 2. Speak truth to people: evangelism and discipleship
 3. Live & lead in His ways: living God’s ways brings blessing
 - To live any other way hinders this blessing

The Big Idea

**True blessing is only found
and is certainly found
in relationship with God in Christ**

**BLESSING US IN HIS NAME IS GOD'S IDEA
GOD'S INITIATIVE
GOD'S PLEASURE**

HOW CAN WE GET THE BLESSING OF GOD?

- **SEEK TO KNOW GOD IN CHRIST**
- **ASK HIM, AND TRUST HIM, AND OBEY HIM**

The LORD bless you
and keep you;
the LORD make his face shine on you
and be gracious to you;
the LORD turn his face toward you
and give you peace.

So you will put God's name on His people
and He Himself will bless them