

BEYOND THE BLESSINGS

GOD WAS INTENTIONAL IN CREATION

A. We were created on purpose

1. God created us for relationship
 - a. Not good for man to be alone
2. The best relationships involve sharing together - fellowship
 - a. Not one-sided or obligation driven
3. God invites us to be in fellowship (*1 Corinthians 1:9 NASB*)
 - a. The NLT uses partnership - not a silent partnership

MORE THAN FISH (John 21:1-14 NLT)

A. Jesus blessed the disciples

1. He did not punish them for going fishing
 - a. They did not know their assignment until Pentecost
2. The blessing followed their obedience to His instructions
 - a. They could have balked at the stranger on the shore

B. Peter reconnected with the Lord

1. Two scriptures reference Jesus appearing to Peter alone after the resurrection
2. Jesus had to have communicated to Peter two important things
 - a. That Peter was forgiven for denying Him
 - b. That Peter was accepted as a disciple
3. If Peter had still felt guilty and condemned, he would have stayed in the boat
 - a. Peter knew Jesus loved him and would receive him

C. The blessing of the catch was secondary to Peter

1. Peter knew the value of that catch
2. His relationship with the Lord was the most valuable
3. Peter's response revealed his heart for the Lord
4. And by serving them breakfast, we see Jesus' desire for fellowship

BEYOND THE BLESSINGS

A. There are blessings with the Lord (*Psalms 23:1 NKJV*)

1. The blessings of Psalms 23 are enough to live on
 - a. His care and protection
 - b. The gift of the Holy Spirit
 - c. A place and purpose in His kingdom
2. There are also the blessings that come from obedience
 - a. Trust and acknowledge Him, and He will guide you
 - b. Honor Him with your giving, and He causes increase and abundance

B. But beyond the blessings is the joy of a relationship with Him

1. Realizing how loved you are (*Revelations 1:5 CSB*)
 - a. Loved you enough to die for you
 - b. Why would He reject a relationship with you
2. A relationship that has growth opportunities
 - a. Growing in your knowledge of God and of Jesus
 - b. The more you come to know Him, the more like Him you become
 - His character, strength, peace, and stability
3. A relationship with the Lord starts with where you are
 - a. Hearing His voice in His word
 - b. Talking to Him - prayer
4. Changes the motivations for your life - good relationships change you
 - a. No longer about what you can get - Jesus is the means to an end
 - b. What can you give to bless those around you - for Him

1 Corinthians 1:9 NASB

9 God is faithful, through whom you were called into fellowship with His Son, Jesus Christ our Lord.

John 21:1-14 NLT

1 Later, Jesus appeared again to the disciples beside the Sea of Galilee. This is how it happened. 2 Several of the disciples were there—Simon Peter, Thomas (nicknamed the Twin), Nathanael from Cana in Galilee, the sons of Zebedee, and two other disciples.

3 Simon Peter said, “I’m going fishing.”

“We’ll come, too,” they all said. So they went out in the boat, but they caught nothing all night.

4 At dawn Jesus was standing on the beach, but the disciples couldn’t see who he was. 5 He called out, “Fellows, have you caught any fish?”

“No,” they replied.

6 Then he said, “Throw out your net on the right-hand side of the boat, and you’ll get some!” So they did, and they couldn’t haul in the net because there were so many fish in it.

7 Then the disciple Jesus loved said to Peter, “It’s the Lord!” When Simon Peter heard that it was the Lord, he put on his tunic (for he had stripped for work), jumped into the water, and headed to shore. 8 The others stayed with the boat and pulled the loaded net to the shore, for they were only about a hundred yards from shore. 9 When they got there, they found breakfast waiting for them—fish cooking over a charcoal fire, and some bread.

10 “Bring some of the fish you’ve just caught,” Jesus said. 11 So Simon Peter went aboard and dragged the net to the shore. There were 153 large fish, and yet the net hadn’t torn.

12 “Now come and have some breakfast!” Jesus said. None of the disciples dared to ask him, “Who are you?” They knew it was the Lord. 13 Then Jesus served them the bread and the fish. 14 This was the third time Jesus had appeared to his disciples since he had been raised from the dead.

Psalms 23:1 NKJV

1 The Lord is my shepherd;
I shall not want.

Revelation 1:5 CSB

5 and from Jesus Christ, the faithful witness, the firstborn from the dead and the ruler of the kings of the earth.

To him who loves us and has set us free from our sins by his blood,