

## “Count Your Many Blessings”

### Introduction:

1. There is a song which Christians often sing; it is entitled “Count Your Many Blessings.” Read the words of the song.
2. The title of that song constitutes the title of this lesson.
  - a. Yet I admit that the admonition contained in the title of this song involves an impossibility, for I must admit that I have “many blessings” which I am unaware of, and that, with regards to **all** the blessings which have come my way, both known and unknown, I simply can’t count that high!
  - b. Yet it is good to pause, take stock of our blessings, and sincerely thank God for those blessings. Sadly, we often fail to do this. Someone has observed that “some people use their fingers and toes to count their blessings and a calculator to count their miseries.”
3. I think one of the reasons why we often count our miseries instead of our blessings lies in the fact that life in the flesh is not always easy; in life we encounter many proverbial “storms,” which make our going tough, and which results in our focusing more upon the difficulties which these “storms” bring, and our forgetting the wonderful blessings which often accompany these “storms.”

### Discussion:

#### I. Some Hidden Blessings Which Accompany the Storms of Life.

- A. Illustrate this point by Noting Some Blessings the Disciples Received When they faced a Literal Storm, Matt. 14:23-33. Parallel references: Mark 6:45-51; John 6:15-21.
  1. The Background:
    - a. Jesus had miraculously fed the multitude, Matt. 14:13-21.
    - b. The people concluded that Jesus was “*that prophet*,” so they tried to “*take him by force, to make Him a king*,” John 6:15.
    - c. Jesus told His disciples “*to get into a ship...and go unto the other side*,” Matt. 14:22.
    - d. Jesus then “*went up into a mountain to pray*,” Matt. 14:23.
    - e. The ship “*now in the midst of the sea, tossed with waves, for the wind was contrary*,” v. 24.
  - B. At this point in time Jesus came to them, “*walking on the sea*,” Matt. 14:25.
    1. In the fourth watch of the night (between 3:00 a.m. and 6:00 a.m.), the darkest part of the night.
    2. Jesus had not forsaken them. Cf. Hebrews 13:5.
  - C. Storms can be a means of our faith being tested. Cf. Genesis 22:1-2.
    1. In the case of the disciples, when they saw Jesus walking on the sea, they “*were troubled*,” Matt. 14:26.
      - a. They thought they had seen “*a spirit*,” Matt. 14:26.
    2. Jesus then delivered an important message.
      - a. A message of cheer, “*be of good cheer*,” Matt. 14:27.
      - b. A message of power, “*it is I*,” Matt. 14:27.
        - (1) The “*I*” in this verse is “*the bread of life*,” John 6:35, “*the door*,” John 10:9, “*the good shepherd*,” John 10:11, “*the resurrection and the life*,” John 11:25, “*the way, the truth, and the life*,” John 14:6.
        - (2) In essence, Jesus was saying “cheer up,” God is here!
      - c. A message of comfort, “*be not afraid*,” Matt. 14:27.
  - D. When the “Storms” have subsided, we can more clearly see that they were blessings in disguise.
    1. In the case of the disciples they were made more aware of the power of Jesus.
    2. Paul learned that God’s grace “*is sufficient*,” 2 Cor. 12:7-9.
    3. Joseph, after having gone thru numerous severe “storms,” could retrospectively see the providence of God at work in his life, Genesis 50:15-20.
    4. “Storms” teach us to “*wait upon the Lord*,” Isaiah 40:31. The Bible is filled with examples of those who did.
      - a. Noah, Genesis 6:14,15. But it may have taken over 100 years to build the ark, Gen. 6:3.
      - b. Abraham, Genesis 12:2,4.
        - (1) But Isaac was not born until 25 years later! Genesis 21:5.
      - c. Job, Job 1:6-11. Job lost his vast possessions, all ten of his children died in one day; his wife told him to “*curse God and die*,” Job 2:9. He was ultimately vindicated, Job 42:10. But it did not happen over night!

## II. We should learn to “count our blessings!”

**Note:** If we discover blessings in the “storms” of life, then surely we should learn to be thankful, and be more and more motivated to reflect upon our blessing in general!

- A. Our Spiritual Blessings (if we are Christians). Ephesians 1:3.
  1. In this chapter the apostle cited some of these blessings, such as:
    - a. “Adoption of children,” Eph. 1:5.
    - b. Acceptance “in the beloved,” Eph. 1:6.
    - c. “redemption through His blood,” Eph. 1:7.
    - d. “The forgiveness of sins,” Eph. 1:7, etc., etc.
  2. An aged Christian was visited by the tax assessor, who asked “what property do you have.” He said “I am a very wealthy man.” Then he listed his possessions, “I have:” “remission of sins,” Acts 2:38, a mansion in heaven, John 14:2, “peace that passeth understanding,” Phil. 4:7, I have “joy unspeakable,” I Peter 1:8; I have “divine love that never faileth,” I Cor. 13:8, “I have a faithful wife,” Prov. 31:10, “I have devoted children,” Ex. 20:12, “I have true, loyal friends,” Prov. 18:24, “I have songs in the night,” Ps. 42:8, “I have a crown of life,” Jas. 1:12, “I have a Savior Jesus Christ, Who supplies all my needs,” Phil. 4:19.
    - a. The tax assessor said “you are truly a wealthy man,...but I’m not able to tax you on any of this;” he then added “you have possession that give 100 percent profit.”
- B. A Large Family (if we are Christians!).
  1. Note Mark 10:28-30.
    - a. Observe Peter said “we have left all, and have followed thee,” Mark 10:28, so “what shall we have therefore,” Matt. 19:27.
    - b. There is no way to calculate the blessings we have as Christians.
- C. The local church family, I Timothy 3:15.
  1. The local church is a family of God’s people.
  2. Seffner is not perfect, but:
    - a. We have an adequate meeting house.
    - b. We have members who care for one another.
    - c. It is scripturally organized, Phil. 1:1.
    - d. Sound doctrine is preached, Titus 2:1.
  3. In many places throughout the world, there are countless Christians who would be thrilled to have it half as good as we have it!
- D. Other blessings for which to “count:”
  1. The righteousness of God, Psalm 7:17.
  2. Our material blessings, Matt. 5:45; Matt. 6:33.
  3. Our bodies, Psalm 139:14-16.
  4. God’s mercy and kindness, Psalm 117:2.
  5. Answered prayer, Psalm 118:21; Psalm 66:19-20.
  6. For unanswered prayer, Matt. 26:39; 27:25.
- E. Our Blessings in General.
  1. Do you have a faithful husband or wife? Then thank God! So many don’t.
  2. Do you enjoy good health? Then thank God! So many don’t.
  3. Do you have a roof over your head? Then thank God! So many don’t.
  4. Do you have food on your table? Then thank God! So many don’t.
  5. Do you have religious freedom? Then thank God! So many don’t.
  6. Do you have parents that care for you? Then thank God! So many don’t.
  7. Do you have the basic necessities of life? Then thank God! So many don’t.

### Conclusion:

1. A question for each one of to ask is this: “Do I spend more time and energy complaining because things are not going the way I want them to go, than I spend genuinely and sincerely thanking God for our many blessings?”
2. One way to show gratitude to God is to take advantage of the opportunity to become His child!

--Bobby Witherington, March 29, 2015

