

THE POWER OF BLESSING : Ps. John Kirkpatrick

Father's Day

What is the best memory you have of your father?

Genesis 27 is the story of a father's blessing – the story of Isaac, Esau and Jacob. Isaac wanted to bless his older son, Rebekah wanted him to bless Jacob.

What had God said? Genesis 25.23.

It seems that Isaac didn't remember, or didn't want to remember. Genesis 25.28 tells us why. We don't always know what God wants for a particular child, so what should our attitude to each one be?

What was God's choice for you – do you know?

Some aspects of blessing:

1.Importance of blessing through touch

Isaac touched Jacob, (thinking he was Esau). How important is touch to you? Some people object to being touched by strangers, but is it important, or only in a family/friend relationship?

Jesus touched those who came to him for healing – even those no one else wanted to touch. The Pharisees avoided touching people, afraid of being made unclean. What made Jesus different? Why was he not afraid of being made unclean?

Was/is touch an important part of your family life?

2.Importance of blessing through the spoken word

God created through his spoken word – Genesis 1.1,3,6,9 etc. We see how powerful his word is. When Jesus came, John tells us who he is, John 1.1-4.

He was God's word made flesh, John 1.14.

Throughout the Old Testament, blessings were spoken by fathers to their children.

James gives us three illustrations about the power of the tongue. James 3.1-3, 3.4-5a, 3.5b-6. His final comment about the tongue in 3.7-11 is a warning about the necessity to guard what we say.

Do you have memories of words spoken that have been very hurtful? Or encouraging and upbuilding? What about words that you have used to hurt or encourage others?

What we say is powerful one way or another. But there is also power in saying nothing – this can be as destructive as negative words.

What words of your parents do you treasure? What would you have liked to hear but didn't?

The story 'Cipher in the Snow' about a boy who was ignored, lonely, unloved, who finally had no will to live – his parents, children in the bus, fellow school pupils – all had nothing to say to him.

We need to speak words to affirm, to bless children and others

3.Importance of the impartation, prediction, projecting a special future

Strong, positive, encouraging words, give hope and a future. Jesus talked to his disciples about their future – See John 14.1-3 for example. In John 14-16 he gave them instructions for the future beyond his death and resurrection – so they would know there were great things for them ahead. He didn't emphasise their weaknesses or their coming distress, or dwell on their failures, but focused on his plans for their futures.

How can we in turn give blessing and encouragement to our children or fellow Christians? It is very easy to say the negative things, but we must determine to speak positively.

Living without parental blessing

The lives of those whose parents didn't bless them are affected by this. But if we feel we lacked their blessing, what should we do?

As we bring to God our lack, we will receive his affirmation, because God always speaks positively into our lives. But some will say they don't hear his affirmation. As we read his word, we will hear it, and we need to simply believe what he says. What positive words can you find in Scripture on which you can build your life?