

God's Honor Roll

“Jabez was more honorable than his brothers”

Lesson VI 1 Chronicles 4:9-10

9) And Jabez was more honourable than his brethren: and his mother called his name Jabez, saying, Because I bare him with sorrow. 10) And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.

Introduction:

1. Text from various versions

- a. KJV... Jabez was more honourable than his brethren
- b. CE...He (Jabez) was still the most respected son in his family
- c. MSG... Jabez was a better man than his brothers, a man of honor.

2. Does God have favorites?

- a. Some would argue that God does not have favorites
- b. Some would argue that God does have favorites.
- c. Let me give you some things to consider

3. Jesus came to earth so that “whosoever” might call on His name and be saved.

- a. We must declare that “Salvation” is for all.
- b. All have access to God's blessings and presence
- c. Since this is true, why does it seem that some enjoy more of God than others?

i. Isaiah 44:2

1) KJV

1) Yet now hear, O Jacob my servant; and Israel, whom I have chosen: 2) Thus saith the LORD that made thee, and formed thee from the womb, which will help thee; Fear not, O Jacob, my servant; and thou, Jesurun, whom I have chosen.

2) Ce

I am your Creator. You were in my care even before you were born. Israel, don't be terrified! You are my chosen servant, my very favorite.

ii. Israel was chosen to be God's chosen, special people, God's favorite people.

iii. This scripture indicates that God has favorites.

1) God's favorites are those whom He has chosen

2) God has chosen you and given you an opportunity to be one of His favorites

3) Those who seek God with all their hearts are His favorites,

4) Understand that there is a difference in those who just seek Him and those who seek Him with all their heart.

iv. Verse 3 tells us that God said He would pour water on the person who is thirsty.

Note Isaiah 44:3-5

3) For I will pour water upon him that is thirsty, and floods upon the dry ground: I will pour my spirit upon thy seed, and my blessing upon thine offspring: 4) And they shall spring up as among the grass, as willows by the water courses. 5) One shall say, I am the Lord's; and another shall call himself by the name of Jacob; and another shall subscribe with his hand unto the Lord, and surname himself by the name of Israel.

1) Thirst indicates someone who is craving and yearning for God's presence for God's favor

2) Many want to be blessed, but they do not really "thirst" for God

Note these verses on thirst. (If we want the Jabez prayer to work, we must thirst for God.

i. Matthew 5:6

Blessed are they which do hunger and thirst after righteousness: for they shall be filled.

ii. John 7:37-38

37) In the last day, that great day of the feast, Jesus stood and cried, saying, If any man thirst, let him come unto me, and drink. 38) He that believeth on me, as the scripture hath said, out of his belly shall flow rivers of living water.

iii. Isaiah 55:1

Ho, every one that thirsteth, come ye to the waters, and he that hath no money; come ye, buy, and eat; yea, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.

iv. Psalms 63:1-3

1) O God, thou art my God; early will I seek thee: my soul thirsteth for thee, my flesh longeth for thee in a dry and thirsty land, where no water is; 2) To see thy power and thy glory, so as I have seen thee in the sanctuary. 3) Because thy lovingkindness is better than life, my lips shall praise thee.

v. Psalms 143:6...

I stretch forth my hands unto thee: my soul thirsteth after thee, as a thirsty land

4. Jabez because of his prayer received the award “more honorable” from God.

a. Jabez’ prayer indicates that he was “thirsty” for more than what he had.

b. Jabez would probably argue that God has favorites

c. I want on the “more honorable” favorite list of God.

d. Equal access to God’s favor does not necessarily mean equal reward

i. We all have equal access to God’s favor, but we do not all receive equal reward.

ii. You have all the names mentioned before Jabez, and those mentioned after Jabez, yet, nowhere do we read of them receiving honor or award from God.

iii. Jabez received recognition and award.

iv. So we ask, why did Jabez receive this special recognition and honor from God.

1) What is the difference?

2) Is God the same?

3) Does God have respect of persons?

4) By the way, we read in Acts 10:34 where Peter

“...opened his mouth, and said, of a truth I perceive that God is no respecter of persons:”

v. Then, why is one man honored and others are only mentioned.

5. Let us look at how to be “More Honorable” and recognized as one who has God’s favor who is God’s favorite. (Anybody want to be God’s favorite?)

a. “More Honorable” defined

- i. From the Strong’s, it means “numerous, rich, abounding, very great, nobles, prevail.
- ii. From a Thesaurus, “Honorable” has the following synonyms: admirable, good, praiseworthy, principled, moral, worthy, respectable, upright, proper, and right.

Note: Therefore,

- i. Jabez was a man that abounded, was rich, became very great, was a noble, and Jabez prevailed.
- ii. Jabez was a man that was admirable, good, praiseworthy, principled, moral, worthy, respectable, upright, proper, and a man that was right.
- iii. No wonder a city was named after him, and all of this because Jabez asked God to bless him, enlarge his borders, to go with him, and to keep him from evil.

Note: Wow! I wonder what God would do, or will do for us, in us, and around us if we will simply pray every day asking God

- i. To bless me today with the blessings you have for me,
- ii. To enlarge my borders,
- iii. To go with me today
- iv. To keep evil from me and me from evil so evil will not harm me, and I will not displease God.

Note: Moving into the “Special Favored” status with God

- i. Does not come to the average or for those satisfied with the “status quo,” and
- ii. Does not come to those who are satisfied with mediocrity.
- iii. The “Most Favored” status comes to those who will “deny themselves” and become a “living sacrifice” “pursuing after God.”
 - 1) Pursuing God does not mean that you come into His presence once in awhile,
 - 2) You cannot pursue God by ignoring His commands
- iv. God is pursued
 - 1) When we chase after Him

2) When ask God what He wants from us today.

v. Praying a prayer like the Jabez prayer is a commitment, or else it is selfish.

1) If it is selfish, then it will not be answered, but

2) If it is a commitment, then “Look Out because God is granting your request.”

b. To be more honorable, we take into consideration the following Scriptures

i. James 4:1-3

1) Kjv

1) From whence come wars and fightings among you? come they not hence, even of your lusts that war in your members? 2) Ye lust, and have not: ye kill, and desire to have, and cannot obtain: ye fight and war, yet ye have not, because ye ask not. 3) Ye ask, and receive not, because ye ask amiss, that ye may consume it upon your lusts.

2) Nlt

1) What is causing the quarrels and fights among you? Isn't it the whole army of evil desires at war within you? 2) You want what you don't have, so you scheme and kill to get it. You are jealous for what others have, and you can't possess it, so you fight and quarrel to take it away from them. And yet the reason you don't have what you want is that you don't ask God for it. 3) And even when you do ask, you don't get it because your whole motive is wrong—you want only what will give you pleasure.

Note: It is God who promotes and demotes.

i. If we want promoted, then we ask God to bless us and bless us indeed, to enlarge our borders, to go with us and to keep evil from us.

ii. Reacting out of jealousy and greed is sign of us wanting position, favor, riches from a wrong motive, and this applies both in the church and out of the church

ii. Matthew 6:9-13

9) After this manner therefore pray ye: Our Father which art in heaven, Hallowed be thy name. 10) Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done in earth, as it is in heaven. 11) Give us this day our daily bread. 12) And forgive us our debts, as we forgive our debtors. 13) And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil: For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, for ever. Amen.

1) God, we want Your will to be done here as it is in heaven

- 2) Provide for our daily needs, and forgive our sins as we forgive those who sinned or offended us
- 3) Lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil
- 4) We recognize oh God that everything is Your kingdom, Your power, and for Your glory

Note: We can see parts of Jabez prayer in the Lord's Prayer.

“Bless me, Lord with my daily bread and keep me from evil.”

iii. Matthew 7:7-8 (Nlt)

7) “Keep on asking, and you will be given what you ask for. Keep on looking, and you will find. Keep on knocking, and the door will be opened. 8) For everyone who asks, receives. Everyone who seeks, finds. And the door is opened to everyone who knocks.

iv. Matthew 7:11 (Nlt)

If you sinful people know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your heavenly Father give good gifts to those who ask him.

v. Matthew 18:19-20 (Kjv)

19) Again I say unto you, That if two of you shall agree on earth as touching any thing that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. 20) For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them.

1) “Agree together” is from the Greek word “symphōneō”

a) This means together like a symphony

b) When two are in harmony, in agreement here on earth on anything that we ask, then it shall be done for us by our Father in heaven.

2) We are assured that when two or three gather together, God is in our midst.

vi. Matthew 21:21-22 (Kjv)

21) Jesus answered and said unto them, Verily I say unto you, If ye have faith, and doubt not, ye shall not only do this which is done to the fig tree, but also if ye shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; it shall be done. 22) And all things, whatsoever ye shall ask in prayer, believing, ye shall receive.

vii. John 14:14...If ye shall ask any thing in my name, I will do it. (Kjv)

viii. John 15:7 (Kjv)

If ye abide in me, and my words abide in you, ye shall ask what ye will, and it shall be done unto you.

ix. John 15:16 (Kjv)

Ye have not chosen me, but I have chosen you, and ordained you, that ye should go and bring forth fruit, and that your fruit should remain: that whatsoever ye shall ask of the Father in my name, he may give it you.

x. John 16:23-24 (Kjv)

23) And in that day ye shall ask me nothing. Verily, verily, I say unto you, Whatsoever ye shall ask the Father in my name, he will give it you. 24) Hitherto have ye asked nothing in my name: ask, and ye shall receive, that your joy may be full.

xi. James 1:6 (Kjv)

But let him ask in faith, nothing wavering. For he that wavereth is like a wave of the sea driven with the wind and tossed.

xii. 1 John 3:21-22 (Kjv)

21) Beloved, if our heart condemn us not, then have we confidence toward God. 22) And whatsoever we ask, we receive of him, because we keep his commandments, and do those things that are pleasing in his sight.

xiii. 1 John 5:14-15 (Kjv)

14) And this is the confidence that we have in him, that, if we ask any thing according to his will, he heareth us: 15) And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him.

Note: Let us determine what God's will is, and then ask for it. Pray the Jabez prayer.

c. God favors those who ask

i. God holds back nothing from those who want and earnestly long for what He wants.

1) God is honorable, and God desires for you and I to be honorable.

2) God describes Jabez as more honorable, and when we are described as more honorable, it is what God sees in us and it is declared through the eyes and voices of others.

ii. We are not trying to outdo others, but we are living in the Spirit when we strive to receive God's Highest Rewards.

iii. Paul

1) "...Pressed toward the mark (goal) for the prize of the high calling of God in Christ Jesus" (Philippians 3:14)

2) Looked forward to the day when he would give an account of His life.
(2 Corinthians 5:9-10)

iv. How about you and I

1) Are you and I looking forward to the day of accounting?

2) Do we dread that day of Accounting, for on that day

a) We can see all the things that God wanted us to have,

b) We can see all the things that tried repeatedly to do for us

c) We can see all the things that God wanted to accomplish through us,

Note: Winning honor nearly always means leaving mediocre expectations and comfortable assumptions behind.

i. It does not have as much to do with talent as some think it does

ii. We do not have to be super-saints.

iii. God uses ordinary, easy-to-overlook people, who have faith in an extraordinary, miraculous God, who will step out to act on their faith.

iv. These people discover a life marked by God's blessings, supernatural provision, and divine leading at the very moment they need Them.

I. God's Hand is On Me Now

A. Go through the day with the thought "God's Hand Is On me Right Now."

1. One of the most exciting aspects of living for God's honor roll "most favored status" is the immediacy the "Now-ness" of serving God.

Note: Say it with me: "God's hand is on me right now."

2. Let us consider for a moment "How our day would unfold"

- i. If we truly believed that God wanted our borders expanded at all times with every person and
- ii. If we were confident that God's powerful hand is directing us even as we minister?

B. Principles of the Jabez Prayer at work

1. How to apply Jabez prayer

- a. Ask for and Expect God's blessing for today.
- b. Ask for more "territory" (more ministry and influence for Him) and step forward to receive it.
- c. Lean precariously but confidently upon the Holy Spirit to guide your thoughts, words, and actions to work in the supernatural realm to accomplish what you can not accomplish.
- d. Ask God to keep you from evil from spoiling the blessing He desires to bring through you.

2. Reach boldly for the miracle

- a. God knows your gifts, your hindrances, and the condition you are in at every moment.
- b. God knows every single person who is in desperate need of receiving His touch through you.

Note: Have you thought about it? You meet someone, maybe several, who need God's touch through you.

- c. God will bring you to that person at exactly the right time and the right circumstances. What you do with the moment is up to you.
- d. When God does this, He will give you the power to be His witness at that moment.

II. The Cycle of Blessing

A. Repeating these steps and saying this prayer will put in motion a cycle of blessing that will keep multiplying what God is able to do in and through each of us.

- 1. Exponential growth seems to happen.

- a. We ask for and receive more blessing, more territory, more power, and more protection.
 - b. The curve soon starts to spike upward.
2. We do not reach the next level of blessing and stay there.
- a. We begin again, “Lord, bless me indeed! Lord, please enlarge my borders! Lord, go with me! Lord, keep me from evil!”
 - b. The cycle repeats itself
 - c. You find that you are steadily moving into wider spheres of blessing and influence, spiraling ever outward and upward into a larger life for God.
- B. The day will come, and come repeatedly during our life, that we will be so overwhelmed with God’s graciousness that tears will stream down our face.
- 1. You will see a direct link between your prayer and God opening the windows of heaven for you.
 - 2. The cycle of blessings will give our faith a good testing.
 - a. Let God work in your regardless of what He chooses.
 - b. What God chooses is always best because He is all-knowing and full of Wisdom to apply His knowledge.
 - c. Surrender to God’s power, and love, and His surprising plan for you.
- Note:** You will experience joy in knowing that God experiences deep pleasure and joy in you, in knowing that God is pleased with you.
- C. The only thing that will break this cycle of abundant living is sin, because sin breaks the flow of God’s power.

Note: Sin is knowing what is right and doing wrong anyway.

- 1. Sin breaks the flow just like a broken electric line.
 - a. It does not matter how large the source is from where you receive your electricity, if the line is broken then there is no electricity.
 - b. Sin stops the flow from heaven where there is an abundant supply, but the abundant supply cannot get to us when sin has broken the line.

2. When you sin after experiencing the Jabez blessing, you will experience a deeper grief over you disconnect from God than you ever thought possible.
 - a. After experiencing the good things that electricity gives us, it is more difficult to live without it.
 - b. The pain comes from having once tasted the excitement of God working in us at a higher level of fulfillment and then turning back.

Note: Let us rush into God's presence, or back into God's presence making things right with God. Whatever it takes, let us do it. Do not squander even for a moment the miracle that God has started in your life. Indescribable good lies ahead for you and your family.

III. So God granted Jabez what he requested.

A. Make this prayer for blessing a part of the daily fabric of your life.

B. Do the following

1. Pray the Jabez prayer every morning, and keep a record of your daily
2. Write out the prayer and tape it in your Bible, in your day-timer, on your bathroom mirror, or some other place where you will be reminded of your new vision.
3. Tell someone of your commitment to your new prayer habit, and ask them to check on you.
4. Keep a record of changes in your life, especially the divine appointments and new opportunities you can relate directly to the Jabez prayer.
5. Start praying the Jabez prayer for your family, friends, and local church.

Conclusion

1. What you know about the prayer will not get you anything.
2. What you know about deliverance will not get you delivered

Note: You can hang the Jabez prayer on the wall of every room in your house and nothing will happen.

3. It is only the actions brought about by your belief that will bring about a life change.
 - a. What we do next shows what we believe.

- b. Faith and action that demonstrates faith is what will release God's power for us and bring about a life change.
 - c. When we act, we will step up to God's best for us.
4. The warmth of God's truth infuses us when the merest ray of faith shines in our spirit.
- a. We become excited and begin to anticipate what will happen next.
 - b. When we move by faith, something always happens, and our spiritual expectations undergo a radical shift.
 - c. We feel renewed confidence in the present-tense power and reality of our prayers because we know that we are praying in the will and pleasure of God.
 - d. We know that we were redeemed for this purpose, to ask God for the God-sized best He has in mind for us, and to ask for it with all of our heart.

Note: Let us join together in praying daily the Jabez prayer believing that God will bring a transformation to our lives. Let us look for what God is doing, and make ourselves available for God-sized opportunities.