

Be A Blessing

November 2, 2014

Vol. 4 Num. 43

1 PETER 3:8-22

Using This Study

❶ EXAMINE His Word

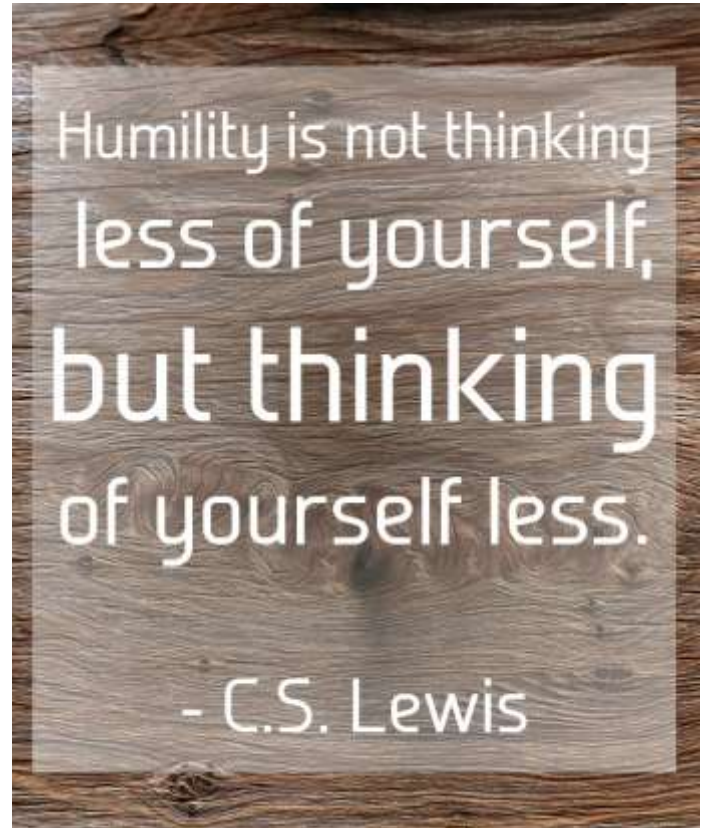
What does God SAY? Open your time with prayer. The words God uses to communicate matters, so go back and pay close attention to the details that are emphasized or repeated in the passage.

❷ EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN? Asking questions of the text helps surface how the details relate to the message God wants to communicate.

❸ EMBRACE His Word

Why does it MATTER to me? Embrace God by responding to what you discover in His word in faith and obedience.



In the third chapter of First Peter, Peter talks about our need to bless those around us. We are instructed not to return evil for evil or insult for insult. However, to return evil for evil and insult for insult is the norm for our society. As Christians, we must live outside the norm. This morning we will look at how we can bless others by being “harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble.” We will see how living a life that is a blessing to others becomes a blessing for us and will help us “love life and see good days.”

🕒 EXAMINE His Word

What does God SAY? Prayerfully note significant details and terms emphasized in the passage.

Read I Peter 3:8-22 (NET)

⁸ Finally, all of you be harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble.

⁹ Do not return evil for evil or insult for insult, but instead bless others because you were called to inherit a blessing.

¹⁰ For *the one who wants to love life and see good days must keep his tongue from evil and his lips from uttering deceit.*

¹¹ *And he must turn away from evil and do good; he must seek peace and pursue it.*

¹² *For the eyes of the Lord are upon the righteous and his ears are open to their prayer. But the Lord's face is against those who do evil.*

¹³ For who is going to harm you if you are devoted to what is good?

¹⁴ But in fact, if you happen to suffer for doing what is right, you are blessed. *But do not be terrified of them or be shaken.*

¹⁵ But set Christ apart as Lord in your hearts and always be ready to give an answer to anyone who asks about the hope you possess.

¹⁶ Yet do it with courtesy and respect, keeping a good conscience, so that those who slander your good conduct in Christ may be put to shame when they accuse you.

¹⁷ For it is better to suffer for doing good, if God wills it, than for doing evil.

¹⁸ Because Christ also suffered once for sins, *the just for the unjust,* to bring you to God, by being put to death in the flesh but by being made alive in the spirit.

¹⁹ In it he went and preached to the spirits in prison,

²⁰ after they were disobedient long ago when God patiently waited in the days of Noah as an ark was being constructed. In the ark a few, that is eight souls, were delivered through water.

²¹ And this prefigured baptism, which now saves you—not the washing off of physical dirt but the pledge of a good conscience to God—through the resurrection of Jesus Christ,

²² who went into heaven and is at the right hand of God with angels and authorities and powers subject to him.

🕒 EXPLORE His Word

What does God MEAN?

1. When is it hardest to not return evil for evil?

2. We are given a blessing from God; how can we in turn bless others? Give specific examples that you could do this week.

3. How can we pursue peace as instructed in verse 11?

4. There are many ways that we can return evil and insult, but the easiest way is by the words we choose. What are some ways that we see the power of words when they are harmful to others?

5. How do we reconcile verses 10-12 that say God turns away from those that do evil with verse 18 that says He suffered the “just for the unjust.”?

6. Humility is a key concept in this passage; in verse 8 we are all commanded to be humble. How does our society view humility? Is it a trait that is valued?

7. In verse 8, we are instructed to be “harmonious, sympathetic, affectionate, compassionate, and humble.” Do we see these characteristics in God? How has He demonstrated these traits to us?

③ EMBRACE His Word

Why does this MATTER to me?

Summarize your thoughts on the passage:

Write about what God wants you to KNOW, to FEEL, and to DO...

SERMON NOTES