



Bethel South Sermon Notes – “Blessed to Bless”

Speaker: Ps Mike Gowans

Series: Jesus Is Better

Scripture: Hebrews 7

Main Idea

Before God calls us to an assignment, He first calls us into relationship.

Our identity as sons and daughters comes before everything else.

Because Jesus is our perfect High Priest, we can receive His blessing, walk in His peace, and become a blessing to those around us.

Your Heavenly Father Has the Final Word

Ps Mike acknowledged that while special occasions can bring celebration for some, they can also bring pain, loss, disappointment, or regret for others.

Yet regardless of our earthly experiences, our Heavenly Father has the final word over our lives.

Key Thought:

Your past may explain part of your story, but it does not determine your destiny.

The Gospel gives us the power to break unhealthy cycles and walk in a new identity.

Key Thought:

Before God calls us to do something for Him, He calls us to belong to Him.

Identity always comes before assignment.

Jesus Is Our Better High Priest

Hebrews 7

The writer of Hebrews introduces Melchizedek, a priest-king who points us to Jesus.

Jesus is our:

- Perfect High Priest
- Perfect King
- Perfect Mediator
- Perfect Savior

Because of Him, we can live in righteousness, peace, and blessing.

Key Thought:

Jesus doesn't just give us blessings—He makes us a blessing.

1. Fight the Right Battle

We are in a spiritual battle whether we acknowledge it or not.

Ignoring the enemy does not make him disappear.

But as believers, we don't fight from fear.

We fight from victory.

Romans 8:11

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you."

Key Thought:

The same power that raised Christ from the dead lives inside of us.

God has called us to:

- **Fight for our marriages**
- **Fight for our families**
- **Fight for purity**
- **Fight for our spiritual health**

But our battle is not against people.

Ephesians 6:12

"For we do not wrestle against flesh and blood..."

Key Thought:

The greatest battles are won on our knees.

Prayer is our primary weapon.

2. Bring Home Blessings, Not Spoils

After Abraham's victory, he encountered two kings.

The King of Sodom

Offered:

- **Wealth**
- **Possessions**
- **Worldly gain**

Melchizedek

Brought:

- **Bread**
- **Wine**
- **Blessing**

Abraham rejected the spoils of Sodom because he understood that not everything that looks successful is beneficial.

Key Thought:

Not all money is good money.

Not all success is worth the price it costs.

Many people bring home a paycheck while their families are starving for:

- **Presence**
- **Encouragement**
- **Attention**
- **Spiritual leadership**

Key Thought:

Don't sacrifice your family on the altar of success.

Priestly leaders bring home:

- **Peace**
- **Blessing**
- **Presence**
- **God's favor**

3. Receive Daily and Give Daily

Melchizedek's name means:

King of Righteousness

King of Peace

Before we can give to others, we must first receive from God.

Key Thought:

You cannot give away what you have not first received.

Every day we need:

- **God's righteousness**
- **God's peace**
- **God's grace**
- **God's strength**

A healthy spiritual life begins with daily connection to Jesus.

Giving Flows From Gratitude

Abraham responded to God's blessing with generosity.

He tithed as an act of:

- **Honor**
- **Worship**
- **Gratitude**

Key Thought:

Generosity is not rooted in obligation.

It is the natural response of someone who recognizes God as their provider.

When we receive from God daily, giving becomes a joy instead of a burden.

4. Lead From Weakness

The world tells us that leaders must always be strong, self-sufficient, and have all the answers.

The Kingdom teaches something different.

God is not looking for self-reliant people.

He is looking for dependent people.

Key Thought:

God's strength is revealed through our weakness.

It is okay to admit:

- **"I don't have it all figured out."**
- **"I need help."**
- **"I need God."**

Mighty People Live on Their Knees

Real spiritual strength comes from dependence on God.

Prayer is not weakness.

Prayer is trust.

Prayer is surrender.

Prayer is strength.

Key Thought:

The strongest believers are the ones who know they cannot do life without God.

Jesus Stands in the Gap

Jesus is our better High Priest.

Unlike earthly priests, His sacrifice was once and for all.

He took:

- **Our guilt**
- **Our shame**
- **Our condemnation**
- **Our punishment**

So that we could freely receive:

- **Forgiveness**
- **Peace**
- **Righteousness**
- **Relationship with the Father**

Key Thought:

Jesus is not standing against you.

He is standing for you.

Even now, He lives to intercede on your behalf.

Final Challenge

Because Jesus is our better High Priest:

- **Fight the right battles.**
- **Bring home blessings instead of spoils.**
- **Receive daily from God so you can give daily to others.**
- **Lead from dependence instead of self-sufficiency.**

Key Thought:

Blessed people become a blessing.

The more we receive from Jesus, the more we have to give away.

Discussion Questions

1. Ps Mike said, "Identity comes before assignment." Why is it important to understand who we are in Christ before focusing on what we do for Him?
2. What are some practical ways we can fight the right battles through prayer instead of reacting in our own strength?
3. What does it look like in today's culture to bring home blessings instead of spoils? How can we prioritize presence over performance?

4. Ps Mike taught that we cannot give away what we have not first received. What are some ways you intentionally receive God's peace, righteousness, and strength throughout the week?
5. Why do you think God often chooses to work through weakness instead of strength? What is one area where you need to depend on Him more fully right now?