

## TRUE BLESSEDNESS

-Ryan Parsons-

Like a pirate searching for hidden treasure on an x-marked map, mankind is constantly on a journey to find "blessings." He seeks out the benefits of living in this world and the favor of the people in his vicinity. His aim is to find contentment, security, comfort, and community. However, he often finds himself feeling unfulfilled, disappointed, and craving more.

In the gospel of Luke, Jesus shares the simple recipe for true blessedness. Rather than finding the benefits of earthly things and the favor of mankind, he speaks of eternal blessedness that is bestowed by God.

Luke 11

9 And I tell you, ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will find; knock, and it will be opened to you. 10 For everyone who asks receives, and the one who seeks finds, and to the one who knocks it will be opened. 11 What father among you, if his son asks for a fish, will instead of a fish give him a serpent; 12 or if he asks for an egg, will give him a scorpion? 13 If you then, who are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will the heavenly Father give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him!"

Later in that same chapter, Jesus explains the treasure map a little further. The key is not only hearing or even knowing the word of God. It is going beyond that to living it in faithful obedience.

Luke 11

27 As he said these things, a woman in the crowd raised her voice and said to him, "Blessed is the womb that bore you, and the breasts at which you nursed!" 28 But he said, "Blessed rather are those who hear the word of God and keep it!"

With that obedience comes true blessedness which provides true contentment, security, comfort, and community.

Luke 6

46 "Why do you call me 'Lord, Lord,' and not do what I tell you? 47 Everyone who comes to me and hears my words and does them, I will show you what he is like: 48 he is like a man building a house, who dug deep and laid the foundation on the rock. And when a flood arose, the stream broke against that house and could not shake it, because it had been well built.

Luke 8:21

But he answered them, "My mother and my brothers are those who hear the word of God and do it."

If you could sum up Jesus' exhortations about the word of God it would be: "Know it and live it!"

Be blessed,  
Ryan