



MISSION MINDED



SESSION 3
Blessed to be a Blessing



Mission Minded #3: Blessed to be a Blessing

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WATCH

Click play above or on the link below

<https://youtu.be/xn4HXTLiZOk>

THINK

**How many ways
can you think of
that you have been
blessed?**

Reflect on the following familiar stories and read the indicated verses. How does God use His blessed people to work towards His purpose of making His name known?

i) The ten plagues on Egypt (Exodus 7:5, 7:17, 8:10, 9:13-16, 9:29, 12:38)

Plagues were both for the good of Israel to push Pharaoh into releasing them but also a means by which God's name would become known.

ii) God's commandments to Israel (Deuteronomy 4:5-8)

If Israel obeys God's commands, they will a powerful witness to other nations of the goodness of the Lord.

iii) Solomon meets the Queen of Sheba (1 Kings 10:1-9)

The queen of Sheba hears of Solomon's wisdom and comes to meet him. By the end of her visit she recognises the greatness of the Lord.

iv) Daniel and the lions' den (Daniel 6:16-28)

God delivers Daniel from the lions causing King Darius to worship God.

As the Lord's chosen nation engage with those around them, time and time again God's blessing causes foreign nations to sit up and take notice of the greatness of God. The promise to Abraham is fulfilled - nations are being blessed through his descendants as they come to know the name of the Lord.

Did the characters of the Old Testament understand this link themselves? Did they recognise that the blessing they received was to make God's name known among other nations?

Read Numbers 14:11-19. Israel has sinned against God and Moses intercedes on their behalf before the Lord.

i) What is the thrust of Moses argument for mercy in verses 13-16?

If the Lord strikes His own people, the Egyptians will hear of it and the name of the Lord will be tarnished in their eyes.

ii) Which part of the link between blessing and making God's name known is Moses remembering in verses 17-19?

Moses remembers the many blessings God has given to Israel and appeals to God's grace for more blessing, in this instance, mercy.

REFLECT

We, like Israel before us, fall short of God's standards. What areas of our lives do we need to bring before the Lord in order to become more effective witnesses for Him?

In the course of just a few verses we see Moses articulate in his intercession the two themes we have seen so far, as well as the link between them. He boldly asks the Lord for more blessing in order that His name is not diminished among other nations.

The purpose of the people of God has always been to pay the blessing they receive from the Lord forward to the other nations of the world.

Israel enjoys a relationship with God, and are the beneficiaries of a sacrificial system by which the sins of the people can be answered. They are also the recipients of God's law: instructions that reveal how life should be lived.

As members of God's people today, we've received even greater blessing than Israel. We have direct access to God through faith in His Son and are able to bless our world by sharing the Gospel.



ASIA FOCUS

Each session of Mission Minded focuses on an area of ministry in Asia supported by our parent organisation, AsiaLink. Please take this opportunity to expand your knowledge and practise prayer for Gospel ministry in Asia.

RESCUING & RESTORING VICTIMS OF TRAFFICKING

For Israel, the central blessing God bestowed upon them was freedom from captivity. Time and time again the Israelites look back to God's intervention when they were enslaved in Egypt. Today, modern slavery is a global issue that must be addressed, particularly in Asia where you'll find the largest trafficking industry in the world.

Vatsana grew up in a remote South-East Asian village with her family. Incredibly poor, they relied solely on the land to make a living. When men came to her village they promised education, opportunities for employment and a better life for her and her family. She left her home and everything she knew in hope of a better life. Instead, the men took her, abused her and sold her to the highest bidder. She doesn't know where she is, she can't contact home and she can't see any means of escape.

Vatsana is only 12 years old.

Vatsana's story is not unique, in fact there are an estimated two million children bought and sold in the trafficking industry each year. Nearly 36 million people find themselves in some kind of slavery today. Two-thirds of victims are from across Asia.

AsiaLink partners in Mongolia, South-East Asia and Pakistan offer a means of escape to people like Vatsana. Teams seek to make connections with those ensnared by trafficking and encourage them to stay at safe shelters. Here, they receive counselling and skills training for future employment. Many come to faith in Christ as well as they hear the gospel.

HOW TO PRAY

Pray for all those currently enslaved in Asia, may the Lord set them free.

Pray for women and children being reached by teams. May they have the courage to pursue a life of freedom and hope.

Pray that AsiaLink partners would continue see many women and children freed physically, mentally and spiritually.



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