

158 – Would you rather BE the Father’s PLEASURE or HAVE His BLESSING?

We have seen some massive shifts and changes over the past month or two, haven’t we? Barbara and I have spent the last week in prayer, in seeking the face of the Father, and in conversation with one another, looking into all that we have seen transpire over even just the past few weeks – **radical** shifts that began with declarations we were compelled by the Spirit to make about the personal, private, intimate, and even exclusive relationship that the Father appeared to be requiring for everyone we know, love, and serve. He required us to step out of your life so that He could guide and correct you directly, and give you no choice but to seek Him for your life’s purpose and direction.

We have moved from an administration of His blessing into the administration of His pleasure. I pray that the Father will reveal to your heart what this means, what it looks like, and what it’s importance is, because as I have sat with this before the Lord, I can sense the enormous difference between **having** His blessing and **being** His pleasure. The two are not mutually exclusive – that is, being his pleasure does not mean living outside of His blessing, but there is a maturing that I see happening here, like that of a once dependent child who is weaned from its mother’s breast and learns how to feed itself. The parent becomes less necessary for immediate survival and more for guidance and support as a son or daughter matures. Eventually, the child lives independently and the parent, who once was the source of blessing in his or her life, becomes the parent’s pleasure.

The analogy of human childhood, parenthood and the maturing process that leads to independence, breaks down, when comparing it to our relationship with the Father. I do not see where we are directed to operate independently of Him; rather, we seek Him continually, wait upon Him, and step out according to His revelation and direction. We are not looking for the Father’s blessing today; instead, we are seeking His pleasure. I would suggest that we find His pleasure when He is all in us.

Let’s go to the Scriptures to understand this better:

Mark 1:11, but begin in verse 9 and go to verse 12 . . .

And it occurred in those days that Yeshua came from Nazareth of Galilee, and is baptized in the Jordan by John.

10 And straightway, stepping up out of the water, He perceived the heavens rent, and the spirit, as a dove, descending and remaining on Him.

11 And a voice came out of the heavens, "Thou art My Son, the Beloved; in Thee I delight."

12 And straightway the spirit is ejecting Him into the wilderness.

Several issues here to look at:

1. **Yeshua was 30 years old** – in Israel, a man was old enough to fight in the army at 20 years old, but he was not considered fully mature until He turned 30.
2. **Yeshua perceived the heavens rent** – no one else perceived it, even though there were others in the area, including John, who had just baptized Yeshua!
3. **The Spirit REMAINED on Yeshua** – once you and I have received the outpouring of the Spirit of Holiness, it remains on us too. The difference between us and Yeshua is that we can grieve the Spirit:

Ephesians 4:30 - do not be causing sorrow to the holy spirit of God by which you are sealed for the day of deliverance.

Paul's word here is toward the end of a list of things not to do or to be associated with as spirit-filled sons and daughters of YaHoVeH.

4. **The Father spoke to Yeshua directly** – Matthew's Gospel reads the Father's voice speaking as if to those around Yeshua, but every time I read Mark's account or Luke's, I am gripped with the rightness of them. After all, who more than Yeshua would have needed to hear this word? Who more than He would have benefitted most from hearing it, especially given the fact that Yeshua emptied Himself of His original immortal position and glory to assume the lowly condition of mortal flesh and blood.
5. **"Straightway the spirit is ejecting Him into the wilderness"** (verse 12) – Mark's Gospel differs from the others in that Yeshua was ejected by the Spirit – the same Spirit that descended as a dove and remained on Him in verse 10!

Would we say that Yeshua was the Father's pleasure? The Scripture says precisely that in **Mark 1:11** . . .

"Thou art My Son, the Beloved; in Thee I delight."

Luke 3:22: "Thou art My Son, the Beloved; in Thee I delight."

Matthew 3:17: "This is My Son, the Beloved, in Whom I delight."

"Delight": to be well pleased with, take pleasure in, to be favourably inclined towards one

Obviously, Yeshua was being the Father's pleasure; did He also have the Father's blessing? Let's see, He no sooner spoke to Yeshua than His Spirit ejected Him into the wilderness for 40 days and nights to undergo trial by the adversary! Does that look like blessing to you? Let's look at a prophetic description of Yeshua and His life as a man:

Isaiah 53:1-10

Who believes our report?

And the arm of Yahweh, to whom is it revealed?

2 He shall grow up like a young shoot before Him,

And like a root sprout out from arid earth;

He has no shapeliness nor honor that we should observe Him,

And no such appearance that we should covet Him.

3 He is despised and shunned of men,

A Man of pains and knowing illness,

And, as a concealing of faces from Him,

He is despised, and we judge Him of no account.

4 Surely He Himself has borne our illnesses,

And our pains, He was burdened with them;

As for us, we accounted Him assaulted,

Smitten of Elohim and humbled.

5 Yet He was wounded because of our transgressions,

And crushed because of our depravities.

The discipline of our well-being was on Him,

And with His welts comes healing for us.

6 All of us, like a flock, have strayed;

Each to his own way, we have turned around,

Yet Yahweh Himself causes the depravity of us all to come upon Him.

7 Hard pressed is He, and He Himself is humbled,

Yet He is not opening His mouth;

Like a flockling to slaughter is He fetched,

And as a ewe is mute before her shearers,

He is not opening His mouth.

8 From restraint and from judgment He is taken,

And on His personal fate, who is meditating?

For He is severed from the land of the living;

Because of the transgressions of My people, He is led to death.

9 And they appoint His tomb with the wicked,

With the rich His sepulcher,

Although He had done no wrong,

And no deceit was in His mouth.

10 Yet Yahweh desires to crush Him,

And He causes Him to be wounded.

How much blessing can we find in this description? Add to this Yeshua's own words:

Luke 9:57-58

57 And at their going in the road, someone said to Him, "I will be following Thee wheresoever Thou mayest be coming away, Lord!"

58 And Yeshua said to him, "The jackals have burrows and the flying creatures of heaven roosts, yet the Son of Mankind has no where that He may be reclining His head."

Beware lest anyone think that following in Yeshua's footsteps is accompanied by blessing! There has been great blessing in all of our lives: We have witnessed the removal and the recovery of children; the delivering from businesses that were governed demonically and the establishing of new businesses under Godly authority; the relocation and reframing of whole lives; the redetermination of careers and life purposes. Often, the processes through these dramatic changes have been or are or may yet be painful and costly in many ways; however, the object in every instance is that His will be done on the Earth, in and through our lives, as it is in the heavens.

Yeshua was the Father's pleasure – His “*delight*” – but we are hard pressed to find the Father's blessing in Yeshua's life.

Here's Isaiah 53 again:

Isaiah 53:10-12

Should His soul place a guilt offering, He shall see a seed,

He shall lengthen days,

And the desire of Yahweh shall prosper in His hand.

11 From the toil of His soul He shall see light,

And He shall be satisfied by His knowledge;

My righteous Servant shall justify many,

And with their depravities He Himself shall be burdened.

12 Therefore I shall apportion to Him among the many,

And with the staunch shall He apportion the spoils,

Inasmuch as He empties out His soul to death,

And with transgressors is He counted;

He Himself bears the sin of many,

And for transgressors shall He make intercession.

I count five lines out of all of **Isaiah 53** that could speak of blessing. Yeshua was the Father's delight, but His earthly experience looks devoid of blessing.

Bless in Greek is *Eu-lo-ge-o*, from which we get the word, *eulogy*. Its first meaning is “praise”; its last meaning is “benefit.” The transliteration of blessing is “well-saying,” and is often used to convey bounty.

In Hebrew, **blessing** is *Berakah*, and it means, “prosperity,” “Praise of God; gift or present; even treaty of peace.”

Delight – also translated “pleasure – in Greek is *Eu-do-ke-o*, very similar to *Eu-lo-ge-o*. It means, “it seems good to one, is one's good pleasure; think it good, choose, determine, decide; to do willingly; to be ready to, to prefer, choose rather; to be well pleased with, take pleasure in, to be favourably inclined towards one.”

In Hebrew, the word, “*khafets*” (*Hey-fetts*) appears as a noun, and adjective and a verb: it means “desire, longing; the good pleasure”; “desiring, delighting in, having pleasure in”; “to delight in, take pleasure in, desire, be pleased with; to move, bend down;”

Paul's life doesn't look full of blessing, but at its end He knew that he had won the race and would receive payment:

2 Timothy 4:

I have contended the ideal contest. I have finished my career. I have kept the faith.

8 Furthermore, there is reserved for me the wreath of righteousness, which the Lord, the just Judge, will be paying to me in that day; yet not to me only, but also to all who love His advent.

Philippians 2:13

13 for it is God Who is operating in you to will as well as to work for the sake of His delight.

Now, my habit is that when I find a verse, I look before and after it to see what else may be gained. I have to read this to you, beginning from the first verse and going through the 16th verse, because the Apostle knew the Philippians well; he had had much to do with them and their lives; and they had been entrusted with the secrets of His evangel. When I read Philippians, I find myself *feeling* like Paul addressing an ecclesia whose members had come through a lot with the Apostle. His epistle is not about doctrine but conduct; and conduct results from character. The Philippians are people whom the Apostle has not seen for a long time, and does not see again; they have received all of the doctrinal teaching He had. They were on their own in Paul's absence, as are all of you in Barbara's absence – and like Paul's epistle to them was a lifeline, so to speak – and perhaps other epistles from him that circulated through the ecclesias, you have the Scriptures that the Philippians didn't have, plus four of five books we have published as of this week, plus this weekly time together to

observe from Heaven's View. No one is lacking for resource, wisdom, comfort or encouragement.

To me, this is the difference between having the Father's blessing and being His pleasure.

Imagine, now, hearing from the Apostle, knowing what you know, and facing your own life and purpose before the Father:

Philippians 2:1-16

If, then, there is any consolation in Christ, if any comfort of love, if any communion of spirit, if any compassion and pity,

2 fill my joy full, that you may be mutually disposed, having mutual love, joined in soul, being disposed to one thing --

3 nothing according with faction, nor yet according with vainglory -- but with humility, deeming one another superior to one's self,

4 not each noting that which is his own, but each that of others also.

5 For let this disposition be in you, which is in The Messiah Yeshua also,

6 Who, being inherently in the form of God, deems it not pillaging to be equal with God,

7 nevertheless empties Himself, taking the form of a slave, coming to be in the likeness of humanity,

8 and, being found in fashion as a human, He humbles Himself, becoming obedient unto death, even the death of the cross.

9 Wherefore, also, the Father highly exalts Him, and graces Him with the name that is above every name,

10 that in the name of Yeshua every knee should be bowing, celestial and terrestrial and subterranean,

11 and every tongue should be acclaiming that Yeshua The Messiah is Lord, for the glory of Elohim, the Father.

12 So that, my beloved, according as you always obey, not as in my presence only, but now much rather in my absence, with fear and trembling, be carrying your own salvation into effect,

13 for it is God Who is operating in you to will as well as to work for the sake of His delight.

14 All be doing without murmurings and reasonings,

15 that you may become blameless and artless, children of God, flawless, in the midst of a generation crooked and perverse among whom you are appearing as luminaries in the world,

16 having on the word of life, for my glorying in the day of Christ, that I did not run for naught, neither that I toil for naught.

Barbara and I pray that the Lord bless and keep you, but more than that, we pray that you be His pleasure – that you be his delight.

Luke 12:32

Do not fear, little flocklet, for it delights your Father to give you the kingdom.

Yeshua said this to Israelites, whose expectation was an earthly kingdom. Here's what the Apostle Paul wrote to the Ephesians, whose expectation was far higher as is ours:

Ephesians 1:3-12

Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Yeshua The Messiah, **Who blesses us with every spiritual blessing among the celestials, in the Messiah,**

4 according as He chooses us in Him before the disruption of the world, we to be holy and flawless in His sight,

5 in love designating us beforehand for the place of a son for Him through the Messiah Yeshua; in accord with **the delight of His will,**

6 for the laud of the glory of His grace, which graces us in the Beloved:

7 in Whom we are having the deliverance through His blood, the forgiveness of offenses in accord with the riches of His grace,

8 which He lavishes on us; in all wisdom and prudence

9 making known to us the secret of His will (in accord with His delight, which He purposed in Him)

10 to have an administration of the complement of the eras, to head up all in the Messiah -- both that in the heavens and that on the earth --

11 in Him in Whom our lot was cast also, being designated beforehand according to the purpose of the One Who is operating the all in accord with the counsel of His will,

12 that we should be for the laud of His glory, who are pre-expectant in the Messiah.

I would rather BE the Father's "delight" than HAVE His blessing; however, in BEING His pleasure, I have His blessing. Notice that the blessing that Paul described in Ephesians 1 is not earthly but celestial. The REAL blessing – the one that matters most, is delayed. So was Paul's; so was Yeshua's; so was Abraham's, Isaac's and Jacob's.

By our day in, day out conduct – our thoughts, words and actions – we may be the Father's delight. In all those we are blessed, by definition, but our focus ought to be in what pleases Him. Who we are – that is, whose image we display, whether the terrestrial and temporary or the celestial and eonian; Whom we seek, whether the counsel of men or of YaHoVeH; to Whom we hearken, whether the voices or "**the Voice**," as Barbara writes in *God is GOD and We Are Not*; and Whom we serve, whether our own goals and desires—what we think is good and noble – or the Father's sovereign purpose in and through our lives . . . these are the most important questions we answer every day, simply by thinking, speaking and acting.

1 Samuel 15:22-23

***Does Yahweh have as much delight in ascent offerings and sacrifices
As in hearkening to the voice of Yahweh?
Behold, to hearken is better than sacrifice,
To pay attention than the fat of rams.
23 For rebellion is like the sin of divination,
Insubordination, like the lawlessness of teraphim.***

Being the Father's delight is as simple as hearkening – as hearing and heeding. How often has Barbara said, “*Obedience is always the dividing issue.*” Yeshua payed no attention to what His obedience cost those around Him. He was about the Father's business.

John 5:30

I can not do anything of Myself. According as I am hearing am I judging; and My judging is just, for I am not seeking My will, but the will of Him Who sends Me.

I need to take a sidebar here:

Barbara and I just celebrated our fifth wedding anniversary this past weekend, and I cannot tell you the number of times over the past five years that my Father has dealt severely with me through His daughter! When she came to me she was His delight; she lives there; yet, at the same time, she has given no quarter to those of my stupidities that were an affront to the Father. Likewise, I have witnessed her deal severely with you who are listening to me live right now. Hear me and believe me when I say that when it has happened, you may have found yourself tempted to blame her, to think ill of her, or chalk it up to Barbara's faults and failings. Look out, because If I may save you some time and trouble, I have learned that her position in your life and mine even more so is to do and say whatever is required at any particular time so that the Father can accomplish His purpose in and through your life and mine.

Her obedience, like Yeshua's and like Paul's, may cost you more than you thought – or more than you think – is fair. You may be offended by her whom you can see and hear; but I promise that your offense is toward the Father Himself – your beef is with Him, not with her. The cliché says, “*Don't shoot the messenger.*” That's what people did to Yeshua and what almost everyone did to Paul. It's what Israel did to Moses, Jeremiah. People tend to miss the Father's intent when they focus on the messenger He sends into their lives. A prophet we met in Nashville, who had never laid eyes on me before, said this one night:

And the Lord said, *“I’ve been opening up some of the deeper parts of your heart and your soul and I’ve been going into some areas that are sensitive and I’ve been using your wife to speak about some of these things that are challenging to you.”* And the Lord says, *“Even in this time, it’s like she knows how to touch every sensitive spot,”* and so the spirit of the Lord says, *“As she’s doing that, I want you to recognize that that is My voice and that is My hand ministering in those areas.”* And the Lord said, *“My heart is only to heal, to deliver and to do you good,”*

Why is this important to share with you? The Father will use whom He will to test your heart and to bring you to Himself. If we aspire to be His delight, we will receive the ones He sends. We may not like them or what they say, but the alternative is unthinkable abandonment to our own devices.

I have often quoted **Proverbs 10:22:**

***The blessing of Yahweh, it enriches,
And He shall not add grief to it.***

Now look at Psalm 35:27

***May those be jubilant and rejoice,
Who take delight in my righteousness;
May they say continually, Let Yahweh be magnified,
Whose delight is in His servant’s well-being.***

Change the word, “servant” to “son” or “daughter” and read it again.

I thank YaHoVeH for His blessing in my life and yours, but I would rather us live in His delight.

Psalm 18:16-19

***He sent from the height; He took me;
He removed me from many waters;
17 He rescued me from my strong enemy
And from those hating me;
For they were tougher than I.
18 They confronted me in the day of my calamity,
Yet Yahweh became my Stay.
19 He brought me forth in to a wide place;
He liberated me, for He has delighted in me.***

Psalm 37:22-28 – watch this one . . .

For those being blessed by Him, they shall tenant the land,

Yet those being maledicted by Him, they shall be cut off.

**23 By Yahweh are the steps of a master prepared,
And in His way shall he delight.**

**24 Though he should fall, he shall not be cast forth,
For Yahweh is supporting his hand.**

**25 I was a youth, and now I am old;
Yet I have not seen the righteous forsaken
Or his seed seeking bread.**

**26 The entire day he is generous and obliging,
And his seed becomes a blessing.**

**27 Withdraw from evil, and do good;
Then tabernacle for the eon.**

**28 For Yahweh is loving right judgment,
And He shall not forsake His benign ones.**

Psalm 51:6

**Behold, You delight in truth even in the hidden parts,
And in the secret parts You cause me to know wisdom.**

When we abandon our self determination and have no purposes of our own, then the path that we follow is His trail:

Matthew 7:13-14

"Enter through the **cramped gate**, for broad is the gate and spacious is the way which is leading away into destruction, and many are those entering through it.

14 Yet what a **cramped gate and narrowed way** is the one leading away into life, and few are those who are finding it.

When we find His gate, which is itself not easy to do, it is an uncomfortable passage through it, and then we enter on to a trail that is very narrow. My vision is that it is rocky; you have to keep your eyes open all the time; it can be demanding in the extreme; it can take very sharp turns, but through this gate and on this trail is the experience of His pleasure, whereas outside of it is the experience only of His blessing. The road so many seem to be on and which I pray we have left is the one along His blessing; but it's not true intimacy with Him; it's not Him, really; rather, it's the evidence of Him; it's the *example* of Him, but it's not Him.

But along the very narrow, rocky, demanding, extreme, tightly turning trail, it is Him. This is His presence and His pleasure – His delight. At times we may stop to appreciate the view, but we cannot walk this path casually. If we become casual at any time, if we don't keep our

eyes on Him, we'll trip and fall, the rocks will slide out from under our feet, and we'll lose your footing. But along this trail, is His pleasure. You're never really looking for His blessing, b/c you're looking for Him, at Him.

The picture that's painted, everyone will see themselves in it.

The difference between the road you've been on, it's the road of His blessing, but the road of His pleasure is very precarious, it's a very narrow and rocky trail. Enter through the cramped gate, how narrowed the way and FEW there be who find it. This is not a trail you would take for the enjoyment of it (what people would think about enjoyment) this is a trail you would take only because you know it's where the father is. It's not grand, it's not open, easy, it's not full of wild and enthusiastic experience. It's humble, it's quiet, it's secluded, it's somber as opposed to exciting, it's an elevation in the spirit, a heightened spiritual awareness, not I ?

A man acquainted with grief a man of sorrows. You wouldn't look at Yeshua's life as one of blessing, but of one in the Father's pleasure.