

Pastor Ron Case
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“Progress to Bless”

“And I will make of you a great nation, and I will bless you and make your name great, so that you will be a blessing.” (Genesis 12:2)

“Successful” Zeroes

Ecclesiastes 4:7-8 – (7) “Again, I saw vanity under the sun: (8) one person who has no other, either son or brother, yet there is no end to all his toil, and his eyes are never satisfied with riches, so that he never asks, ‘For whom am I toiling and depriving myself of pleasure?’ This also is vanity and an unhappy business.”

Luke 12:16-21 – (16) “And he told them a parable, saying, ‘The land of a rich man produced plentifully, (17) and he thought to himself, ‘What shall I do, for I have nowhere to store my crops?’ (18) And he said, ‘I will do this: I will tear down my barns and build larger ones, and there I will store all my grain and my goods. (19) And I will say to my soul, Soul, you have ample goods laid up for many years; relax, eat, drink, be merry.’ (20) But God said to him, ‘Fool! This night your soul is required of you, and the things you have prepared, whose will they be?’ (21) So is the one who lays up treasure for himself and is not rich toward God.”

Unsung Heroes

Ecclesiastes 9:13-17 – (13) “I have also seen this example of wisdom under the sun, and it seemed great to me. (14) There was a little city with few men in it, and a great king came against it and besieged it, building great siegeworks against it. (15) But there was found in it a poor, wise man, and he by his wisdom delivered the city. Yet no one remembered that poor man. (16) But I say that wisdom is better than might, though the poor man’s wisdom is despised and his words are not heard. (17) The words of the wise heard in quiet are better than the shouting of a ruler among fools.”

Luke 2:36-38 – (36) “And there was a prophetess, Anna, the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years, having lived with her husband seven years from when she was a virgin, (37) and then as a widow until she was eighty-four. She did not depart from the temple, worshipping with fasting and prayer night and day. (38) And coming up at that very hour she began to give

thanks to God and to speak of him to all who were waiting for the redemption of Jerusalem.”

Key Point: The Evidence of Progressing is Being a Blessing

Brought Through to Bless

“Then Joseph brought in Jacob his father and stood him before Pharaoh, and Jacob blessed Pharaoh.” (Genesis 47:7)

Persistent Practices, Progress & Preservation

“Practice these things, devote yourself to them, so that all may see your progress. Keep a close watch on yourself and on the teaching. Persist in this, for by so doing you will [*preserve*] both yourself and your hearers.” (1 Timothy 4:15-16)

Questions:

What impacted me the most in this message?

Is my progress self serving, or does it flow out to bless others?

(Matt. 10:8)

(ESV used unless otherwise noted)