1 – **Count Your Many Blessings**

Ephesians 1:3-5

2 – **Outline**

1. **How are we blessed?**
2. **Responsibilities of being blessed.**
3. **When blessings become curses.**
4. **When curses become blessings.**
5. **What do I need to do to be blessed today**?

3 – **Definitions**

Two words:

1. One where we get our word “**eulogy**” from meaning ‘to speak well of, or bestow favor or praise’.
2. The Greek word “**Makarios**” used in the beatitudes of Matthew chapter five. Complete satisfaction apart from the temporal circumstances of life.

4 - **How we are blessed**

**Physically**

* **The world we live in**. (Psalms 65:9-13)
* **Necessities** of life. (Psalms 37:25; 1 Timothy 6:8; Matthew 7:7-11)
* **Abundance**. (1 Timothy 6:17; Deuteronomy 6:10ff)
* **Our families**. (Psalms 127:3-5; Eccles. 9:9; Proverbs 17:6; 18:22)

5 - **How we are blessed**

**Spiritually**

* ***“Every spiritual blessing…”*** (Ephesians 1:3)
* ***“Everything pertaining to life and godliness…”***
(2 Peter 1:3)
* **Answered prayers** (James 5:16; 1 John 5:13-15)
* **Children of God and joint heirs with Christ**.
(1 John 3:1; Romans 8:15-17)
* **An advocate and intercessor in heaven**. (1 John 2:1)

6 - **How we are blessed**

**Spiritually**

* God sent…
	+ **His word** (Isaiah 55:10-11; Psalms 119:105; 19:7; 2 Timothy 3:16-17)
	+ **His Son** (Romans 8:31ff)

7 - **How we are blessed**

Blessings in disguise:

* **Trials and persecutions**. (James 1:2-4, 12;
1 Peter 1:6-7; Hebrews 12:7-11; Psalms 23:4)
* **Death**. (Philippians 1:21-24; Hebrews 2:14-18;
2 Corinthians 5:1-9)

8 - **Responsibilities of being blessed**

* **Be thankful**. (1 Thessalonians 5:18; Ephesians 5:20)
* **Be content**. (Philippians 4:11; 1 Timothy 6:6; Hebrews 13:6)
* **Be trusting**. (Matthew 6:11; Psalms 37:5)

9 - **Responsibilities of being blessed**

* **Be good stewards**.
	+ Seek to glorify our Master. (Matthew 25:14ff)
	+ Use to bless others. (1 Timothy 6:17ff; Eph. 4:28)
* **Be a blessing to others**… including our enemies.
	+ (Luke 6:28; Galatians 6:1-2, 6, 10; Eph. 4:32;
	Titus 3:14)

10 - **Blessings into Curses**

* **The bronze serpent**. (2 Kings 18:1-4; Num. 21:4-9)
* **Solomon’s wisdom and wealth**. (1 Kings 3:9-13; 10:21, 27; 11:1-5; Mark 4:18-19)
* **The Laodiceans lack of need**. (Revelation 3:17ff)
* **A lack of persecution**. (Amos 6:1)
* **Our temporal blessings**. (Deuteronomy 6:10-15;
1 Timothy 6:8-10)

11 - **Curses into Blessings**

* **Consider Joseph**. (Genesis 37:28; 39:19; 41:40; 50:20)
* **Good through adversity**. (Romans 8:28ff;
Hebrews 12:7-11)
* **Consider Jesus** (Galatians 3:13-14)

12 - **The ultimate blessing**

* **Eternity in heaven because of our forgiveness - everything God has planned from the beginning:** (Acts 3:24-26; 1 Thessalonians 5:15-18; 1 Peter 1:3-4; Romans 8:14-18)
* To be so blessed, we must believe Jesus Christ, confess our faith, turn from our sins and obey the gospel. (Acts 3:26)