

Lighthouse Beacon

July 2011

"Seeing Jesus"

This summer our church is doing a study on Roy Hession's book, "*We Would See Jesus*". The premise of the book is revealed by its basic challenge to, "Let your life be transformed as you learn to see Jesus, who is both a blessing and the way to that blessing—the means and the end."

Lighthouses must remember that we are not the light, but beneficiaries and reflectors of the light provided to us by Jesus. He is the light and He alone is to be displayed and glorified in and through our lives.

The world around you is watching to see if your life is any different, any better than theirs. Only when they see His light shining in and through us will they be attracted to our Savior. So, dear lighthouse.....*Let Him Shine!* ~Kim

In chapter 3 of "*We Would See Jesus*", Mr. Hession states that "*Jehovah [is] always seeking out man's need in order to satisfy it.*" He goes on to say "*It is not, therefore, the hungry seeking for bread, but the Bread seeking the hungry; not the sad seeking for joy, rather Joy seeking the sad; not emptiness seeking fullness, but rather Fullness seeking emptiness. And it is not merely that He supplies our need, but that He becomes Himself the fulfillment of our need. Grace, being what it is, is always drawn by need.*"

While this thinking could be rejected as a good foundation for 'name-it-and-claim-it' theology, I believe that what Mr. Hession is saying is an absolutely true principle, especially when seen from a Kingdom perspective. To examine this idea further, let's review the explanation about blessings that Jesus gave – we call it the "Beatitudes" from

His Sermon on the Mount. Specifically, let's consider what Jesus has to say about how Jehovah meets our needs.

Matthew 5:3 "**Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven.**"

Many commentators consider 'poor in spirit' to mean someone who understands their desperate need for God. Not a need for God's help, or God's provision, or more stuff, but a need for God Himself. This is someone who, in response to God's divine drawing, has come to the end of themselves. He reveals the need and then He satisfies the need through the sacrifice of Himself. Hope blesses us with His kingdom and gives us a new spirit – His Holy Spirit.

4 "**Blessed are those who mourn, for they shall be comforted.**"

In 2 Corinthians 1:3-5, tells us about the God of all comfort who comforts us in every mournful situation we may



"Let your light shine so that others may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven." Matt 5:16

face. This applies to the crushing difficulties life throws at us, as well as the deep sadness we experience when we realize how we have sinned against our Lord. Our Comforter seeks out the mournful and meets them at their deepest need.

⁵ "Blessed are the gentle, for they shall inherit the earth.

Our heavenly Father pours His gentleness into the lives of His children. He blesses us with an ability to express His loving nature in a harsh and unloving world. Because of His humble power in us, we not only overcome the world, but we transform it. Gentleness conquers and we inherit His conquest.

⁶ "Blessed are those who hunger and thirst for righteousness, for they shall be satisfied.

What a blessing it is to hunger and thirst for righteousness! But it's not something the flesh desires, it can only be desired under the influence of His Holy Spirit. So He gives us the desire, then He satisfies that desire by pouring His righteousness into and through us.

⁷ "Blessed are the merciful, for they shall receive mercy.

Have you ever been merciful, only to realize that your actions were the result of Christ at work in you? Receiving His mercy encourages us to be merciful, which blesses us to receive more mercy.

⁸ "Blessed are the pure in heart, for they shall see God.

Dear friends, a pure heart is an amaz-

ing blessing from God. As He purifies us, we begin to see Him. He not only gives us a blessing by guiding and enabling us to be purified, but then He rewards us by revealing more of Himself to us. A heart that is being purified receives the blessing of experiencing God.

⁹ "Blessed are the peacemakers, for they shall be called sons of God.

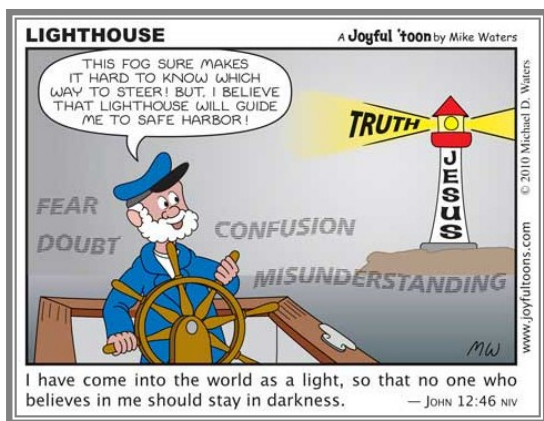
It is not my nature to be a peacemaker. So when I find myself in the role of peacemaker I know without a doubt that

I am being blessed by God and reminded by Him that as His son I am being given the privilege of representing my Father's will here on Earth.

¹⁰ "Blessed are those who have been persecuted for the sake of

righteousness, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. ¹¹ Blessed are you when people insult you and persecute you, and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. ¹² Rejoice and be glad, for your reward in heaven is great; for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

James 1:2 says "count it all joy" when we face tribulations. Realizing we are being blessed in the midst of unjust treatment requires His help because our flesh cannot see the blessing, only the pain. For a Christian to bear up well under persecution, Jesus blesses us with His presence, reminds us of what He has already endured unjustly on our behalf, and then encourages us to remember



Gwen's Corner

Sooner or later, everyone goes through the door of grieving or mourning. When such a loss comes to one of our neighbors, it is a prime opportunity for lighthouses to pray for and reach out to them. We are not to try to take the pain away—that is under the providential purpose and plan of the Lord, but we can offer them a cup of soothing water in their desert experience.

In Chapter 29 of the book of Job, Job was describing his duties as the high official of the town. He said the words and counsel he would give the people were satisfying, refreshing, and encouraging, . . . *like one who comforts mourners.* (Job 29:25) It is a high calling and powerful ministry to comfort mourners, and certainly we can't even begin to do it unless we go in the name and power of God since He is the source of all comfort. (2 Cor. 1: 3)

Kim & I had a middle-aged couple living two doors down from us for several years. They were pretty private and kept to themselves so we didn't know them too well. One night about 2 years ago, she died in her sleep and he, of course, was very bereaved. We attended her memorial service, took some food over on several occasions, and I also gave him a book of encouraging psalms and the promises of God. He has since moved away but when he was telling us good-bye, he was filled with extreme gratitude for the extensions of comfort & consolation we had given. I thought it was only a few meager efforts but to him, it had seemed like the whole world.

And I have to tell you about a little 6-year old lighthouse who lives in Pennsylvania named Allison (our granddaughter) ministering comfort to her neighbor. The neighbor had an old dog which had gotten pretty sick and died. The neighbor was, of course, bereaved so after coming home from visiting him with her mom, Allison drew and cut out a paper dog and a paper dog bowl and a paper dog blanket to take to her neighbor so that he wouldn't miss his dog so much. At that young age, she was burdened for her neighbor's loss. Her own doggie had died a few years ago.

So lighthouses, always be ready for divine opportunities to pray for those around you who are hurting and ask God how you might minister comfort to them.

"Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, the Father of mercies and God of all comfort, who comforts us in all our affliction, so that we may be able to comfort those who are in any affliction, with the comfort with which we ourselves are comforted by God." 2 Cor. 1: 3-4

"You are the light of the world." —Matthew 5:14

there are eternal purposes in our momentary sufferings. Thus we are blessed when our minds remember His kingdom and the joy that awaits us for eternity.

So what does all of this mean for you as a lighthouse? The answer is twofold: 1) you can believe that Grace is always ahead of your needs (Matthew 6:8) and it delights your heavenly Father to bless you in your times of need. 2) The world around you is watching you. How you respond to the blessings of God as He

works in your life reveals to the world what you really believe about God and His son Jesus. Jesus is anxious to pour Himself into us not only for our own blessings, but so that we may become a blessing to others. His intentions are not that we would become containers of His blessings, but conduits that can share the amazing love of God with others. No wonder He is so willing to be part of our lives and to meet every need – He wants us to ~ *Let Him Shine!*



NEW MEXICO SPORTSMEN OUTREACH

2011 NMSO Banquet - July 16, 2011

Manuel Lujan Building, State Fair Grounds, Albuquerque, NM (Doors open @ 3pm)

- **Whole Hog BBQ dinner served @ 5:00pm**
- **Thousands of Dollars in Door Prizes**
- **Outdoor Sport Vendors and Demonstrations**
- **Adult Tickets \$30, Children 12 and under \$15**

<http://www.nmsportsmenoutreach.com/> for more info!

LightShine's Praises & Prayer Requests:

PRAISE! Much progress is being made on our new web-site design.

PRAY for God's direction and word to LightShine through our board members at our Board of Directors meeting on July 11th.

PRAY for God to minister His comfort through lighthouses to those who are hurting around them.

Who Is LightShine Ministries?

LightShine is a faith-based ministry, supported by gifts from individuals like you. We work with many ministries, churches & denominations at local, state & national levels. If you want to help support LightShine, with your prayers, time, resources, or finances, contact us at 505-293-0743 or write to us at LightShine Ministries, 2039 Virginia NE, Albuquerque, NM 87110