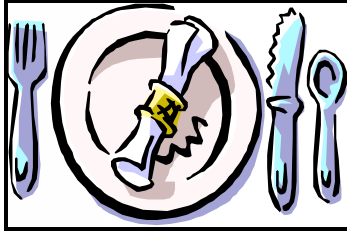


“Expanding Plates”

By Mrs. Sojourner

Recently I heard a nationally known minister tell how God ushered him into a new work. This new project was presented to him and he sought God about it. Several days later God told him to be a part of the work. When he learned that God wanted him to have a major role in the project this conversation on the topic took place: “Lord, my plate is full,” says the man. The Lord replied, “I’m expanding your plate.”



the closest kinsman-redeemer, he would have to do some negotiating to be able marry her,^[c] It would have been easier to send her away.

Notes:

- [a] Ruth 2:3,23
- [b] Ruth 3 and 4
- [c] Ruth 3:12-13
- [d] Ruth 4:17-22

Boaz was a wise man. He was able to discern that the Lord put a gift in front of him and pursuing the gift was worth the effort. He took the step of faith and God expanded his plate. Boaz negotiated for Ruth, and married her. They had a son named Obed, whose son was Jesse, whose son was David, King of Israel.^[d] How could Boaz have had any idea that by allowing God to expand his plate he would become the great-grandfather of the King of Israel.

If the Lord puts “too much” before us, let us trust him to expand our plates also.

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The Sojourner
Sojourner's Fellowships
PO Box 955
Manchester, TN 37349

Phone: 931-409-1406
Toll Free: 800-391-6944
Skype: thesojourner3734
Email:
thesojourner@sojournershub.org

Boaz from the Book of Ruth could have said the same thing to the Lord. Boaz owned wheat and barley fields.^[a] His plate was not empty. Naomi and Ruth then came to town and eventually Boaz was presented with the opportunity to fulfill his role as a kinsman-redeemer and marry Ruth thereby assuring that Ruth’s late husband’s name would be carried on.^[b] Boaz could have said, “I have enough,” or “I have my own name to think about,” or “She is not even Jewish, I do not want to taint my family line with Moabite blood, even if she is a noble woman.” Let’s face it, as it was, he was not



Sojourning

Vol. 9 No. 18 May 2, 2010

...with The Sojourner

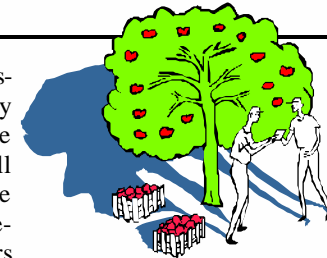
“Blessing Resurrected!” (Teaching Sketch)

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (NIV)

What special gifts or blessings were you given by God? There is only one you. You are unique in all the world now and in the past. There has never before been a you. Believers carry within them the Blessing of Jesus the Christ, the second Adam. A non-believer can carry the Blessing of God in them, if they will take themselves off the throne of their own life and put Jesus on their life’s throne. If they will make Jesus their Lord, as well as their Savior, then the Blessing will come, and they will live under the Blessing. The Blessing first came in the Garden of Eden.

The Garden In You

God made all that was made with his spoken word, and when he had made creation, he then placed a garden in it. That garden was, no doubt, the finest, most beautiful, and most fruitful garden imaginable. What would that garden have been without mankind^[1]



in it? You see, God placed mankind in The Garden of Eden. There they were perfect people in a perfect garden.

Mankind was to hear the first words ever heard, “Be fruitful and increase in number; fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.”^[2]

Since God had made mankind in the image of God, man was made to be a creative being. It was man’s task to expand the Garden to every place he went. The Garden then was in mankind. Well, think about it, before a person can be creative that person must first conceive of the thing to be created in their own mind. Once a thought has been conceived it can then be brought into the physical realm.

It was in the Garden that the “Garden” was first placed in

Notes:

[1] Mankind = Adam & Eve

[2] Genesis 1:28

[3] Genesis 1:26

[4] Hebrews 11

[5] Christ = anointed one

[6] Philippians 4:13

6-9

Scripture: Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (NIV)

(NIV is employed here to allow English speakers around the world equal understanding of the words used)

Blessings for Obedience

1 If you fully obey the LORD your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the LORD your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. 2 All these blessings will come upon you and accompany you if you obey the LORD your God:

3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

Notes: 5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

[a] 6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

7 The LORD will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

8 The LORD will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The LORD your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

9 The LORD will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you

Just so you'll know:

Our service is informal. We look to the Holy Spirit of God to guide us corporately and individually.

Our service usually follows this general pattern:

- **Informal sharing** of what we have seen the Lord do in, through, and around us since we last met.
 - Testimonies are often a part of the conversation.
- **Opening Prayer**
- **Praise & Worship** (Offerings are placed in the basket at this time)
- **Words of Prophecy or Knowledge** if they have been given during "Praise & Worship" (other times as the Spirit moves).
- **The Pastoral Message**
- **Prayer Requests**
 - Ministry to those present & intercession.
- **The Blessing**

"Blessing Resurrected!" (Teaching Sketch)

Deuteronomy 28:1-14 (NIV)



Scripture Continued:

keep the commands of the LORD your God and walk in his ways. 10 Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the LORD, and they will fear you. 11 The LORD will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your forefathers to give you.

12 The LORD will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none.

13 The LORD will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the LORD your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. 14 Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

mankind. Then came the "fall of man," as it is known, when sin entered into the Garden through the deception and disobedience of mankind. God banishes man from the "kingdom" he had given him there. However, we learn later in scripture, that many evidences of the Blessing empowered those who operated in faith.^[4] Then came the sec-

ond Adam, Jesus the Christ^[5]

It was Jesus the Christ who did the work necessary to restore mankind to the same condition that had been enjoyed by Adam and Eve before they sinned (missed the mark). Any person who made Jesus the Christ their Lord and Savior was then restored to the condition of fellowship and the Blessing God had originally given to Adam (mankind). It has always been God's desire and will to bless mankind. The Blessing then rests on and in all Believers.

Blessings Come Forth!

When a person realizes as a Believer they are the blessed they then realize they can do all things through Christ who strengthens them.^[6] All things means "all things." Just as Jesus commanded Lazarus to come forth from the dead, the believer must resurrect the power of the Blessing in them by faith and call the Blessing to come forth in all they do.

The Garden will appear wherever a Believer goes!

"Blessing... come forth in Jesus name."