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July 28, 2013

“DELIGHTING IN OUR LAW-GIVEN INTEGRITY”

“Six Wondrous Things – Six Wondrous Discoveries”

(Psalm 119)

Intro ...

So here it is. Put on the screen for probably the last time though
I trust embedded on the ‘screen of our minds’ forever.

OUR SERIES THEME VERSE ... Psalm 119:18

“Open my EYES that I may see WONDROUS things in your LAW!”

That I might have insight into the WILL and the WAYS of God!

So said the Psalmist long centuries before Jesus Christ came as the literal embodiment of the Law of God, declaring and demonstrating the Wonders of God’s Law to all who would listen to his words and watch his life.

In this singular psalm, (Psalm 119) he reveals at least six of the ‘wondrous things’ that he ‘saw’ as the Heavenly Father flooded his mind in response to this heart-felt prayer.

Six Wondrous Things To Be Found in the Law of God

So far we have discovered five:

“A World-Challenging IDENTITY” - (Wondrous Thing #1)

(We are ‘Law-Loving, Law-Embracing, Law-Keeping Citizens of God’s Kingdom’.)

“A Bondage-Breaking LIBERTY” - (Wondrous Thing #2)

(We are free from the Bondage to ‘Fleshly Domination’ – The Bondage to ‘Endless Invention’ – The Bondage to ‘Human Deception’ – The Bondage to ‘Earthly Frustration’)

“A Sin-Destroying PURITY” - (Wondrous Thing #3)

(God’s Word Promotes Purity; God’s Word Makes Sin Repulsive;
God’s Word Generates Godly Grief Over Sin)

“A Time-Defying AUTHORITY” – (Wondrous Thing #4)

(Through God’s Law we are linked to something Eternal, something Authoritative – something Awe-Inspiring – something we would be most Foolish to Forsake.)

“A Stumble-Preventing STABILITY – (Wondrous Thing #5)
(Those who ‘Love God’s Law’ will not stumble either in the face of Opposition/
Persecution or in the midst of Affliction or during times of Temptation.)

oday (as we complete the set) I would draw your attention to ...

“Wondrous Thing #6” ...
“In the Law of God we discover a Wondrous
GOD - HONORING INTEGRITY!”

Here’s Webster’s definition ...

‘INTEGRITY’ – The state of being **COMPLETE** or **WHOLE**

It means being ... **“TRUE to the very ESSENCE of the thing.”**

A person who possesses integrity is ...

Not necessarily perfect but absolutely authentic - **‘THE REAL DEAL!’**

Consider with me this morning ...

AN AWESOME OLD TESTAMENT EXAMPLE ...
‘Job MAINTAINED his INTEGRITY’
(Job 1:8; 2:3; 2:9; 13:15; 27:5)

Check out these verses from this most familiar story and see how the story is really the story of one godly man holding on to his Integrity- continuing to be ‘*the real deal*’ even in the face of a tremendous test.

God says to Satan ...

*“Have you considered my servant, Job. There is no one on earth like him;
he is blameless and upright, a man who fears God and shuns evil.*
(Job 1:8)

Satan challenges God’s assessment and asks for permission to ‘test Job’ believing that Job is not a man of integrity at all but merely a man who is ‘playing the odds’ that are in his favor. Better to obey God than disobey.

Permission is given – Job’s life is torn completely apart but his faith does not waver. God points out to Satan ...

*“He still maintains his integrity, though you have incited me
against him to ruin him without reason.”
(Job 2:3)*

However, Satan is not convinced ... ‘Let me touch his body – Let me bring some real misery to him’ ... Permission is granted – Job’s body breaks down – sores appear all over him – He becomes pitiful looking.

His wife said to him ...

*“Are you still holding on to your integrity? Curse God and die!”
(Job 2:9)*

Job says to her (and to the others who challenge him) and ultimately to Satan himself ...

*‘Though He slay me, yet will I hope in (trust) Him.’
(Job 13:15)*

And again ...

*“Until I die, I will not deny my integrity ... my conscience will not reproach me.”
(Job 27:5)*

Basically Job was saying (to use the vocabulary of this sermon series) ...

*“I am a Law-Loving, Law-Embracing, Law-Keeping Citizen of God’s Kingdom ... That’s my **Identity** –
That’s who I am – that’s what I have been enabled to be. Nothing is going to change that ...
(To use Jesus’ words) Let the rain come, let the winds blow, let the flood waters rise,
my life is anchored to the Rock of God’s Law and I will not be moved.”*

Now that’s the kind of **integrity** that a true understanding of the Law of God (the very Teaching of Christ) can create in us who embrace it.

What an Awesome Old Testament Example!

A man of incredible **Integrity** – without a doubt, Job was **The Real Deal!**

Consider with me now ...

AN EQUALLY AWESOME NEW TESTAMENT EXPECTATION ...

*‘Be **PERFECT** (Telios) as your **HEAVENLY FATHER** is **PERFECT**.’
(Matthew 5:48)*

Or to use the language of today’s lesson ...

*‘Show yourselves to be Genuine, Authentic, Card-Carrying
Citizens of God’s Kingdom – Men and Women of Integrity!’*

Jesus saw His Followers – those who would ‘*put those teachings of his into practice*’ - as people who would (in a sense) ‘*out-Job Job*’ ... Job was operating so much in the dark while we ‘walk in such light’ – ***Integrity*** should be the Hallmark of our lives.

Being People of Integrity is exactly what Jesus desires and expects us to be!
Surely being ‘*people of integrity*’ is what we want to be, isn’t it?

So having made that observation, let me introduce ...

TODAY’S COMPOUND CONCEPT...

Faithfully following the **LAWS** of the **KINGDOM** (the teachings of Christ) develops **INTEGRITY** (authenticity and consistency) and those who possesses such **INTEGRITY** are truly **BLESSED!**

There’s that word again – ‘**BLESSED**’. We started our study of the ‘*Sermon On The Mount*’ with it and with it we end our study of ***Psalm 119***.

Notice the types of blessings that come to one who is truly a ‘*Law-Loving, Law- Embracing, Law-Keeping Citizen of God’s Kingdom*’ ... to one whose life exhibits (what we are calling today) **GOD-HONORING INTEGRITY**.

For this message we have saved the first for last.
Consider with me this morning the first seven verses of this fantastic Psalm ...

GOD-HONORING INTEGRITY LEADS TO ...

**** The Blessing of BLAMELESSNESS***

“Blessed are they whose ways are blameless ...”
(Psalm 119:1)

Now keep in mind that blameless doesn’t necessarily mean ‘*sinless*’ or ‘*mistake free*’. Citizens of God’s Kingdom do mess up from time to time and so sometimes cause other people pain ... the kind of pain that causes those people to ‘*blame us for their difficulty*’.

The person who possesses God-Honoring Integrity though will never allow that situation to remain unaddressed. He or She will seek to rectify the damage and relieve the pain. They will seek to bring God’s healing heart into the situation. They will admit their error and seek forgiveness.

To use a Bill Gothard definition. ***Blamelessness*** means that ...

No one can point a finger at you and say
‘You have **WRONGED** me and have done **NOTHING** to make it right.’

The Law of God (the Teaching of Christ) does not allow our errors to just ‘*hang in the air*’ ... We deal with things with that ‘*Beatituded Heart of ours*’ and we come to peace with those we have in any way offended or damaged. We experience the Blessing of Blamelessness.

Secondly, the writer of Psalm 119 points out that those who follow after the Laws of God enjoy ...

*** The Blessing of FAULTLESSNESS**

“They do nothing wrong; they walk in His Ways.”

(Psalm 119:3)

It’s kind of like saying ...

‘If you never exceed the speed limit, you will never get a ticket for speeding’.

For those who truly are ‘*Law-Loving, Law-Embracing, Law-Keeping*’ Citizens of God’s Kingdom (men and women of integrity) there is ...

‘No conscious or willful **DEVIATION** – When given a choice between doing **good** or doing **evil**, they choose **good** every time.’

O again, I would quickly point out that this does not mean that they are perfectly sinless for we all sin – we all fall short of God’s Standards – without even being aware of it but here we are talking about our deliberate actions – the ones we are aware of – the ones we think about before we do.

Our commitment to the Law of God (to the Teachings of Christ) can keep us from doing those kinds of things.

Therefore never do we need fear the Lord pointing a finger at us and saying,

“You have consciously and willfully and deliberately violated one of my commands.”

And as a result, we can actually experience the Blessing of Faultlessness.

Now without a doubt this next blessing is one that God would have all Citizens of His Kingdom experience.

It’s surely one that those who possess ‘*God-Honoring Integrity*’ will experience ...

*** The Blessing of SHAMELESSNES**

“Then I would not be put to shame.”

(Psalm 119:6)

There is no doubt that there are '*shameful things*' in this world – things that people do that ought never be done. These are the kinds of things that cause a mother or a teacher or any authority figure to say '*Shame on you*' ... the kinds of things that '*blot your record forever*'.

These are things that have no redeeming value – things that generally are perverse and perhaps cruel – disgusting things ... things that usually bring great embarrassment and regret when they are found out.

However, these ...

SHAMEFUL things (gross sins) and the **FEELINGS** of shame that go with them are definitely avoided by those who '*Keep God's Law*'.

The narrow path that proceeds from the narrow gate just does not lead toward these kinds of things. The narrow path leads in the direction of wholesome things.

Thus those who live according to God's Law experience the **Blessing of Shamelessness** – never having to be ashamed of the way they are behaving.

And now just finally ... a ***fourth blessing*** that comes to one who demonstrates in his life '**God-Honoring Integrity**' ...

**** The Blessing of SELFLESSNESS***

*"They seek him with their whole heart ...
I will praise you with an upright heart"
(Psalm 119:2,7)*

The selfish **FOCUS** that would challenge and test the limits of God's Law does not even come into play – '*Keeping God's Law*' is their way of seeking and praising and pleasing the **ONE** they love.

Here again we return to our essential declaration: '**I am a Law-Loving, Law-Embracing, Law-Keeping Citizen of God's Kingdom.**'

Those who truly '*Love the Law*' (of course) love the '*Law-Giver*' above all and their love for Him assures their adherence to His Will and His Way!

They simply cannot be moved for they possess a Rock-Solid, ***God-Honoring Integrity!***

Final Thot ... A person of **INTEGRITY** is both a blessing to **KNOW** and to **BE** ...
May both experiences be **OURS!**