

First Sunday after Pentecost - The Holy Trinity

Sermon Road Map

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Numbers 6:22-27

May 31, 2015

The Blessing isn't the end. It's a renewed beginning in the LORD.

Little children (maybe even some teens and adults) who are regularly in church hear: *The Lord bless you....* It announces: *We're almost done.* There's no question about it - the Lord's blessing does send us on our way, but it's definitely **not** the end.

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- ❖ Notice whose idea this blessings was.
 - ◆ Yahweh approached Moses and said/revealed...
 - ◆ Instruction/command - do it this way
 - ◆ For Aaron and his sons = **not** for a single use - ongoing
- ❖ Notice who's involved.
 - ◆ The active agent throughout: the LORD - Yahweh
 - In the midst of laws, regulations - pure Gospel: Yahweh acts
 - ◆ The personal nature - singular *you* - *each one of you*
 - Yahweh is looking you in the eye - heart to heart - personal God
- ❖ Notice the implication of bearing the name of Yahweh
 - ◆ **...put my name on them** - give them my name, I'm adopting them
 - Implication of Yahweh's covenant: *I will be your God and you will be my people.*"
 - *In the name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Spirit...*
 - ◆ Here's life in God's family - under his name
 - **Bless you:** bestows God's power to prosper as he wills
 - ◆ Without his blessing we **are nothing** and can **do nothing** lasting
 - **Keep you:** protects, watches over, carefully looks after
 - ◆ Shepherd, caretaker - critical in hostile world & **protect from self**
 - **Makes his face shine upon you**
 - ◆ You do not elicit such a smile. Yahweh's smile is his choice/doing
 - ◆ Yahweh smiled on us, sending Jesus. Jesus is God's smile/love.

- **Be gracious to you**
 - ◆ Full of undeserved gifts - given unconditionally from his kindness
 - ◆ Insulting to those who feel they've earned it - God owes it. Fools!
 - ◆ Comforting, assuring to us who know our unworthiness. It doesn't depend on me. It depends on Yahweh's amazing grace.
- **Turn his face to you** - he looks you in the eyes, into your heart
 - ◆ The transformative personal look of care and compassion
- **Give you peace**
 - ◆ Peace **rooted** in Yahweh's personal and **full forgiveness**.
 - ◆ Forgiveness that **releases** from guilt and **melts** our hostility
 - ◆ Peace - living in fellowship with Yahweh - made well and whole
- **I will bless them.**
 - Not a dream or wishful thinking!
 - His blessing is a promise to bless **this way!** It's **active** and **powerful**
 - All verbs in the imperfect = God's ongoing work - lifelong renewal

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- ❖ We can't help but notice the embedded Holy Trinity.
 - ◆ Not revealed here - but hinted at in 3-fold blessing. Revealed by Jesus.
 - ◆ The Father's reputation to bless, provide for, and protect
 - The personal relationship with us as his children.
 - ◆ The Son, God's smiling face, God's gift of grace - his saving gift
 - ◆ The Holy Spirit - the Spirit of life, regeneration, renewal = peace

Since this is God's idea and command, filled with amazing gifts - life itself, **be bold** like Jacob, *Yahweh, I will leave - I will not let go of you, until you bless me. How can I survive, let alone thrive, without your blessing?*

This blessing in and of itself is worth coming to church for. The whole service reveals Yahweh's name for a fuller insight, so you know...

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