

The Blessing Sermon Transcript

By Adrian Ebens at Talking Rock Georgia, 28 October 2013

Father in heaven it is You who gives life, it is You who brings the fertility to the womb, it is You who gives us children and we want to acknowledge You and honour You. We bring before You this morning Ofniel, the hour of God. Father we present him before You. I pray that Your Spirit will be with this child, that Your Spirit would walk with him, and be with him as the Paracletus, the advocate. Father I pray that this Spirit would be manifest most particularly through his father, Aubert and his mother, Cori. Lord I pray that You would bless them. Bless Aubert with the true biblical sense of manhood to be the father that the Scripture calls us to be, only You can do this in him. For Cori to be the mother in Israel for her son, Ofniel. I trust Father that You will water this seed, this Word that is planted and before these witnesses that we will see the harvest of this planting. We want to praise You and thank You for hearing this prayer in the name of Jesus. Amen.

Before I begin, I would like to continue with our custom of inviting some brothers. I would like to ask Don if you would like to come. Maybe we'll need this, and Steve. Just offer a prayer before we begin. Asking for God to lead us.

Don: Oh Lord our Lord. How excellent is Thy name in all of the earth. How good and how pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity. Father, we don't have to invite Your presence because You've promised where two or more are gathered You would be in the midst thereof.

Amen.

Don: We thank You for that. We know that when You're in the midst of us You're going to leave a blessing upon us and we thank You for that. Father, we know that the evil one will be upset with this holy convocation we have this day, on Your holy sabbath day. But we ask a special outpouring of your angels to herd this room and gird each heart to keep the evil one away from us. And Father we thank You for the safe travels to be here at this convocation and most especially we thank You for the safe travels You've given Adrian to come all the way from Australia to share with us. We ask that You would bless his lips as he brings the message to us. Bless our ears to hear the message. Lord we thank You and honour and praise and glory Your name.

Amen.

Steve: Our great and heavenly Father for Your mercy and allowing us to be here. Thank you for the closer understanding of the relationships of the general blessing. Continue to guide all of our minds try to understand all of these things. Just bless the speaker Adrian with Your Spirit. We ask this in Christ's name. Amen.

Amen. Thank you, brothers. I would like to have a preface statement; I would then like to do a little bit of a recap of where we were yesterday to set the foundation for where I would like to go with this presentation. My introductory thought is how does a boy become a man and how does a girl become a woman. How does this occur? When does this occur? I want you to hold that thought. Yesterday we looked at two systems, 1 Corinthians 8:6, for unto us there is one God the Father of whom are all things. Of whom meaning one source. And we of Him and one Lord Jesus Christ, by whom or through whom are all things. And we by Him. In this Father Son relationship is the fountain of life, in the principal of headship and submission we have as it were two pistons working together to bring forth water.

The headship of the Father is measured by the submission of the Son. Did you catch that? The government shall be upon His shoulders. Who's shoulders? The Son. Because of the Son's obedience and submission to His Father gives His Father absolute authority in the relational kingdom. Through the submission of the Son to the Father and giving to Him absolute authority, and we spoke about this a couple of years ago. Absolute authority opens the door for absolute blessing. But then Satan came along in Isaiah 14:12 and he said, "I will ascend into heaven, I will be like the Most High." He introduced, we talked about this yesterday, he introduced the concept of two co-equal beings and through a co-equal concept there is automatically tension. There is tension.

We see it when people worship in a co-equal concept, there is confusion in the prayer. Dear Father, thank You for dying on the cross. Thank You Jesus. In Your name. Who's name? There's tension. There's confusion. The greatest tragedy of all is when submission is removed, authority is removed and when authority is removed blessing is removed. There is no channel here. There is nothing for the subordinates. From this all of the children of Abraham can receive of the blessing. In the Spirit of the Son, we approach the Father. The spirit of submission, the spirit of obedience, we approach the Father. Like with the absolute blessing of the Father upon His Son, that Son that knows that His Father loves Him. That Son that knows the assurance of His Father's delight. That Spirit can flow out into all the children of Abraham. And you and I can drink of that water.

For this is life eternal, that they might know Thee, the only true God, and Jesus Christ whom Thou has sent. Life eternal flows out of this channel. We were made in their image. Each family was designed to be a copy of this great fountain. Isaiah 42, let's turn there. Or 41. Isaiah 41:18. For many of us we have grown up in this kind of a culture, no fountain, no channel, without a fountain, without a channel, there's no water and without a water there's desert and where there's desert there's desolation. The abomination of desolation. But our Father says in verse 18, "I will open rivers in the high places and fountains in the midst of the valleys. I will make the wilderness a pool of water and the dry land springs of water." That's a beautiful promise. How do we have these springs of water return to us? Come out of Babylon. Come back into the image. Let the divine pattern be restored in the mind.

I now want to shift a little bit and try and give some practical application to how the difference between these two systems can affect someone's life. As we have, for those of who have been here during the week we feel the safety of the walls of protection. In that safety I would like to invite you into some sacred places for me in my journey. Some of you are familiar with this, but I felt impressed to share it again. I have some pictures in my mind that are very sacred to me. One of them is a picture of when I was three weeks of age. I don't remember the event, but I'm so thankful that there's a photo of that event. Obviously, I wouldn't remember. But being able to have that picture and to look into that picture and there is in that picture my father holding me in his arms and looking down upon me with a smile of happiness and joy. I was bringing joy to my father. He was holding me in his arms and I was secure in that embrace. I treasure that picture. It's something that I hang on to.

My mother told me that on the day that I was born that my father ran through the hospital proclaiming to all who would listen, "It's a boy!" He wasn't concerned about whether other people had other things they were concerned about, the world had to know I have a boy. This is for that moment his gospel. I have a son. Again, that brings me joy to know that I brought joy to my father. I will pause at this point because I realize that not everyone has had that experience. In sharing some of these things, it can begin to cause pain for people. I would just offer the promise in Psalms 20:17 that when my father and my mother forsake me, the Lord will take me up.

The channel is not always open and when the channel is not open Satan is more readily able to tell us you are insignificant, you don't matter. As I began to grow, I remember I have a picture in my mind of when my father before he would go to work, he would often go running. My father loved to run he would run for exercise. I was only a small boy and he would often go off early in the morning and he would go and run around an oval field. One morning I said, "Can I come daddy? Can I come?" He took me with him and he begins to run and my dad had big strides. My little legs and I'm trying to keep up. I'm thinking, my dad is so big and so strong. I couldn't keep up with him. He's laughing and encouraging me.

Then I have another picture of a memory of when I went over to my neighbour's house. I'm about five years of age and I go and see the neighbour and he's chopping wood; he's preparing for winter and he's chopping wood. I'm standing there and I'm watching him looking at what he's doing. I just volunteered, I said, my dad can chop wood better than you can. What am I saying? My dad's my hero. He said, is that right young man? How I would wish that in some ways I could have stayed in that kind of a relationship. For it says in Proverbs 17:6. I want you to mark this verse. Proverbs 17:6. It's good to hear those pages. Children's children are the crown of old men. The crown, the promise of a dynasty within a family is not in your children, it's the fact that what you taught your children manifest in your grandchildren, that secures the family dynasty. Children's children are the crown of old men and the glory of children are their fathers. The glory of children are their fathers. Let not the wise man glory in his wisdom, let not the rich man glory in his riches. But let him that glory, glory in this, that he understands and knows Me.

Our sense of value, our sense of worth comes to us primarily through our Father. The greatest, the simplest and most profound way to preach the Gospel is for a father to tell his children I love you. This is where it gets interesting because the blessing of the father, the word of the father, the ability of the father to bless is dependent upon his wife. For absolute blessing comes from absolute authority and when that authority is challenged then the blessing is challenged and the blessing is muted and it's not as strong. When we hear the word absolute authority my mind tends to gravitate towards absolute abject slavery. Do those words try and come into your mind? Submission. It's a challenge.

I want to tell you a little bit more about the story of my family because on both sides of my family, my grandparents, my grandparents on my father's side are from the Netherlands and of course I call them Opa and Oma. My grandparents on my father's side had a very feisty relationship. Both of them were very passionate people and they expressed their feelings. Just to give you an idea, one evening they were having a disagreement and my grandmother Oma she prepared Opa's food and before she brought it out, she got some bleach and she put it all over the food and said, "Have this." It was a very intense relationship.

In the case of that side of the family the more my grandmother challenged his authority the more he asserted his authority. On my mother's side they are from, my mother is of Celtic origin, Scotland, Ireland, England. That's where our fore bears come from on that side of the family. My grandmother she was a very intelligent woman. She studied science, she studied nature, she studied politics. She was a very determined woman. When she was coming to the Advent faith it took the minister seven years of Bible studies before she got to the point where she said, this is the truth. Seven years. My grandfather was a very creative man with his hands, he was an orchardist but he wrestled with depression and there was a sense in the family that he didn't feel that he was the leader of his home. That is evident in many ways because my grandmother tended to lead the spiritual development of the home because he didn't go to church.

The relationship was dysfunctional because while they did own a vehicle, my grandmother had to take my mother and my uncles up the church. Sometimes in the sense of frustration that I guess my grandfather felt that this position was not respected, it led him to some very tyrannical behaviour. That behaviour manifested itself on my mother, for as they would approach the door of the sanctuary, and this was in the Methodist church, my grandfather whose car was parked he would step out and he would proceed to beat my mother as she was going into the church. As in the situation of Cain, when you do things that you regret, and this was became a pattern of abuse. My grandfather took his own life and that had a profound impact on my mother. Because of the turmoil and the conflict within the home, the last time my mother saw her father she turned her face away. The pain was too great. The pain in their relationship was too great. She was reaching out, he wanted somehow to connect. He didn't know how to connect. She couldn't do it and she turned away and then not long after that he ended his life. Not primarily because of that event, but that was just one of a number of events that took place.

My mother has carried that all her life, wishing that she could have changed that moment. I know these stories are not unique. I know that many of us have different experiences in our families where we have experienced this kind of dysfunction. With both of my grandparents the relationship essentially was modelled after this. There was not a principle of submission. It wasn't understood. The headship then that is a male sensing this at least in the families that I have come from, there is a tyrannical response to assert authority. Sometimes men completely abandon their masculinity and they just become completely passive and withdraw and they emotionally die. Which is worse?

In my family there was this seeking to assert. So, when it came to my parents, both my parents are passionate vigorous in their feelings and their expressions about things. So, the joy of my childhood slowly as this mechanism was operating in my family and the blessing was not regularly flowing, the desert began. By God's grace in my early childhood there was water that was able to be placed in my life through my early childhood. The glory of children, that early years when children look up to their fathers and they revere their fathers. But I distinctly remember the time and it began fairly early in my life. I was about seven years of age and I had this distinct decision point in my life as a seven-year-old. I'm not going to say daddy anymore. I'm going to say dad. I'm not so sure about you anymore. Having lived with you for a while now, and of course this is not going on in my head, there are things I'm not quite so sure about anymore.

Then as the years progressed get to that stage of 13 or 14 years of age and I felt embarrassment to be in the presence of my father. That really hurts me. I wanted to be with my friends. I didn't want to be around my father. This inertia that had been building up through the lack of order, the lack of blessing, this toxic current was just taking me in a different direction. I couldn't see it; it was just happening. It was a long period of my life where, a long period of my life, where I didn't value my father's advice. Consequently, I didn't value my mother's advice. You know sometimes when your mother begins to speak to you and from early childhood because our mothers are blessed with the gift of vocabulary and they can use words. Men have this ability to just turn it off. You can hear the words, but you've just turned it off. Because you're not listening. Yeah mom, yeah, yeah, yep thanks, yep. That's the polite way of doing it.

Even to this day I find myself in certain situations where I'm turning down the nob. Honour your father and your mother. I have to change; I have to be different. As a consequence of living in this particular environment and observing my mother because of what she's observed with her mother the process of submission was checked. It was not clear. So, with her lack of submission and my father's lack of biblical leadership at that time I wasn't able to be fully in this channel of blessing. I look back now I see that my father sensing that he doesn't have necessarily that authority, he then became reluctant to offer the

blessing. Because I was manifesting myself towards him in a manner of well, that's your opinion. That's your opinion. I think differently. How many parents have come to that position with their children where as a parent you realize that they don't think the same way about you that they did before? It's even possible that what you know yourself to be, they're imagining you to be something else. We could spend a lot of time there.

The blessings that I received in early years because of the seeds that were manifesting in my life because of a lack of blessing, at the very time when I most needed the blessing of my father it wasn't there because I was in rebellion against my father. I was unworthy of the blessing of my father. And he felt unworthy to give me a blessing because of my resistance of his leadership in the home. None of these things are being spoken, it's just being acted out. The pattern that is up here is just acting itself out. In your teen years, as my teen years went on and because I was not still able to be in that relationship with my father and you're coming to that age of 15, 16, 17, 18, how does a boy become a man? What is the rite of passage? How does a boy know? How does he know, I am a man? Well in the world there are rites of passage and those rites of passage involve all kinds of immorality, drunkenness, foolishness. These things are offered to young people as badges of manhood.

Now I'm a man, I've done this and I've done that. Now I'm a man. It's just like the words of Nebuchadnezzar. He doesn't make a statement; he asks a question because he's not satisfied with the answer. Is not this great Babylon which I have built? Is not, is this not enough? Have I not done enough now to be a man? I have destroyed kingdoms; I have led armies to kill and maim and destroy other families. Am I a man now? Is it enough? Nebuchadnezzar being the descendant or cut in the mold of the original founder of Babylon, Nimrod. Nimrod, the man who married his mother. What channel is operating there? That's sick. That's toxic. The family relationships of Babylon that we see manifested in their great image, the family relationships manifested there are all of that sick type. You read about the relationships of the Ptolemy and the Seleucid's and what they are doing with marriage and how it was being used. It wasn't to create a channel of blessing. It was all based on this co-equal concept, or even the worship of the feminine because it was through the woman that the new religion of Satan was introduced to the world. Man has been worshipping at that altar ever since.

The source of feminism is in the heart of man. His desire to receive from the woman, rather than to bless and give to the woman. I remember having a discussion with my father in my early thirties when I had my own family. My father would sometimes come to me and he would begin to talk to me about my ability as a father and what I'm doing wrong in raising my children. I would just begin to chaff under his words. This fire would begin to burn inside of me. Just, "Okay dad, all right. All right. Are you finished now?" Another time where I came to my father and I said to him, "You know, Dad, I have my own family and I'm working as a minister in the Gospel." I didn't quite word it this way, but that's what I basically meant. I basically said to him, "Can we be friends now? Can we be this?" There is a way that seems right unto a man but the ends thereof are the ways of death. Much to my frustration my father said to me, "I am your father and I have the right to tell you what I think, whether you like it or not." I didn't like that. I didn't like that.

I tell you that the story does go on where I began to study and I began to learn about this system. Where I began to learn about this was in Matthew 3:17. This is what began to change my life. Matthew 3:17, we can read verse 16. "And Jesus when He was baptized went up straightway out of the water and lo the heavens were open unto Him and He saw the Spirit of God descending like a dove and lighting upon Him and lo a voice from heaven saying, This is my beloved Son, in whom I am well pleased. Desire of age is page 113 and a page 116. This word, which was spoken to Jesus is spoken to every one of us. You are my beloved child, in whom I am well pleased. Desire of age is 113 or 116.

As I began to believe this my whole life began to change. This is the word that, well let me back it up this way and say, when Jesus is preparing to go into His ministry and He's going to face Satan, all of the angels. He's been challenged thus far all the way along but now He's entering into His ministry. He's taking up the mantle of ministry. It does not simply say, And Jesus went and memorized the whole Torah. He went to the gym and He worked out and He got Himself really fit. He learned how to use a sword. He went and He studied debating so He could debate with the Pharisees. He learned voice elocution so He could speak with confidence and with power. It doesn't say any of that. The only qualification He needed to be released into His ministry was that His Father said to Him, You are my beloved Son in whom I am well pleased.

This is the gospel of the kingdom. What does the Bible say that is pure religion? Pure religion and undefiled is this, to know the Scripture back to front? Pure religion and undefiled is this, is to visit the fatherless and the widows. First requirement of elder ship, to visit the fatherless and the widows and then keep yourself unspotted from the world. That's pure religion. It's through this passage that I began to find the internal experience of manhood that my Father delights in me through His Son. Because the great tragedy about this system operating in our homes is that the blessing is cut off in the next generation because they don't have the blessing, they can't give the blessing. They don't know how. I didn't even know it was missing from my life. I didn't even know I needed it. This is critical. This is mission critical to God's people coming together is to come into this environment of headship and blessing and releasing.

We have had a discussion about how we can move forward, how we can advance this message. What we need is workers who have that witness in themselves that they are God's beloved son in whom He is well pleased. When that seed is in the soil you're prepared for ministry. You're prepared to go. A number of us were speaking last night about how blessed we've been by some of the presentations of some of the younger men that have been presenting here this week. As I reflected and some other of us have reflected how when we were younger, can I say that?

I don't want to claim any wisdom beyond where I am in life. But for some of us who have been in ministry for some time and have raised a family that if we have had the opportunity with some of the elder ship, some of the men of experience amongst the congregation have put hands on them and said, You are God's beloved son or daughter in whom we are pleased. That this would release more of God's children into ministry, to have the internal witness. For the Spirit itself bears witness with our spirits that we are the children of God and that witness I have found in Scripture comes through this blessing and that we should take every opportunity to engage in this process. But I say once again, for those of us who have grown up in a generation where we haven't understood that principle and where the blessing of the male in our home has been muted. When a man then stands up and says I'm here to bless you, there can be a very strong tremor in the soul saying, What if they don't want it? What if the words I speak come back with the words, Well that's just your opinion?

The safe option then is not to bless. Not to make yourself because the process of blessing is the process of making yourself vulnerable. The process of blessing is a process of believing that God has given you a role to do something to someone who's in a position of subordination. In my country at least, subordination or the perception of any kind of subordination to any other human being is not the way it works. You will acknowledge me because of who I am in myself. Yet we're all crying out for the blessing. So, what I'd like to do now is I've spoken and Craig has spoken. We've approached a number of the younger men amongst us and we said we'd like to invite you to come down in the front and we'd like to invite all those who are pastors or elders to come down and to have a prayer of blessing. To plant a seed, to send a message from our Father to them from the Source through the Channel which has form

that they can know that they are God's sons. So that we can see more men going into ministry and more women going into ministry.

In this service I would like to focus on the young men, but I would also like to have a service where we can invite the young women as well. This is something fairly new for me so if you sense any hesitation it's like I'm trying to follow my Father's will, but I have a sense that this is what our Father wants us to do.

All who wish to come. But I am trusting that there are enough men who wish to be the blessors and to come and bless, if you understand. So, if I can invite the pastors and elders to come. Praise the Lord. Thank you, brethren, for having the courage to come, because for some of us this is not easy. Many of us don't feel worthy to be here. I imagine most of us don't feel like we should even be here. I'm impressed to invite both the young men and the young women, do you agree? All. We're going to have the whole congregation up here. If we can assemble in some way where we have those being blessed in a circle in the front here and the elders from around the back. Can we do that? Do we need to do this in groups? So, we can ... Maybe we can work with a group here and then we'll have another group, does that sound all right? If I can ask the elders to lay hands around this group? To reach over. I would like to ask if two or three brothers could pray and then I will close this section. If someone would like to begin.

Speaker 1: *Father in heaven we come to seek Your blessing. These young men and women. Father we come here to acknowledge them.*

Amen.

Speaker 1: *Father in the name of Jesus, we thank you for your many many blessings. We thank You for life. We thank You for Your Son Jesus our Saviour.*

Amen.

Speaker 1: *[Inaudible So, Father, we ask You to bless these young men and women in the name of Jesus. Amen.*

Amen.

Speaker 2: *Father in heaven we want to thank You for the opportunity to bow before You with our brothers in Christ. These young men who have committed themselves to our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ. Oh Father, those of us who have some grey hairs that have walked this path know that it is a battle and a march. There is no rest for the Christian warrior. But Father, we want to thank You that You have called these young men to be Your servants. Father we all realize that we are unworthy channels, but we ask that Your Spirit would flow through Your Son through us to these young men.*

Amen.

Speaker 2: *That they would be strong in the faith in the knowledge of our God and Saviour Jesus Christ. Oh, Father we ask that You would help them to walk in the light as You are in the light and You would use them to minister this blessing to others and that that circuit would be complete as it returns through Christ back to You Father, the One from whom all blessing flow. We ask in Christ name. Amen.*

Amen. Father in heaven, I thank You for this moment. I thank You for the hour of God. Father in my heart I want to be able to name every person that is here and I'm afraid that in mentioning some names that others will not feel the same. But I want to mention some names that I know and I pray that the

others will we can seek out and maybe we should have done this differently Lord, but I just want to thank You for the ministry of Igor. Lord Your Spirit is evident in his life and I ask Your blessing upon him. That the seed will be fully rooted and grounded. We see it manifest that he will know that he is Your beloved son in whom You're well pleased.

For my brother David, Lord the work that he's been doing in searching the Scriptures and seeking to reach out to people to share the Word of God. I pray that You would expand his ministry, that You would bless him abundantly and that the joy of Christ will flow out of his soul. I pray for Josh. I've just been so blessed by the sincerity of his soul and his desire and hunger for the Word of God. Lord I pray that You would bless his ministry, that it would grow, that he would go into the vineyard, into the fields of labour and reap a great harvest. You can do this through him. I pray for Desmon. I thank You for his diligence in the Word of God. I thank you for his determination to be here. May he know that he is Your beloved son through Christ our Lord and that his ministry will be blessed in abundance.

I pray for Ramone. I thank You for the talents and for the gifts that You've given him and that You've called him into this message, he and his family. I pray that you would bless him abundantly with that knowledge that he is Your beloved child, Your beloved son in whom He is well pleased. I pray for Derek; I thank You that he's come and that he is us. That You would bless him and help him and fill him with the joy of Christ. I pray for my brother Edwin. I thank You for his enthusiasm, his diligence. Bless his ministry, release him into the fullness of the message that he may reach many. He's already working in ministry and I pray that you would expand that ministry. I pray for my brother Len who's come wanting that blessing, as all of us want. That You would bless him and abundantly. He has a passion for ministry. He feels a calling. I pray that You would bless that and bless him.

I pray for Christine, his wife that You would bless her abundantly and that You would help her in her relationship with Len to know how to reflect this pattern. I pray for my sister Bobbi. Pray that You would bless her with that assurance, you are my beloved daughter in whom I am well pleased. Father we are in so much need of women who can pattern the life of Abigail. We need this example in our homes and in our communities and it's been taken away from us. We want it restored and we pray this for all of the women amongst us. Lord, if there's someone else that I've missed I pray that we can connect and have a personal prayer on this. I don't want anyone to be missed out and I just thank You for hearing this prayer. In Jesus name, amen.