

The Mortal Side of a Blessing

It puzzles us to receive the answer to a prayer only to find that it arrives with “attachments” or issues we never imagined could be a part of *a blessing*.

Anne and Jay waited 20 years for a baby. The answer to their prayers arrived but the imagined joy of having a baby of their own was clouded with mountains of dirty diapers and a house covered in extra dishes and supplies. After years of living in a perfect and orderly home, they began to quarrel as the late night feedings and clutter nibbled at their lives.

John and Joan finally got to build their dream home in the mountains they had visited for years on holidays and vacations. They imagined it would be the perfect place to live their golden years. After all the excitement of building they settled into their dream life only to find that it came with some totally “mortal” issues. They often felt like outsiders and without their families living around them, they felt isolated. When their car broke down and they both got the flu, they discovered the mortal side of their blessings.

Throughout the Bible stories of blessings are recorded one after another, but we have to live in a world of blessings to learn how they arrive, how they work and with all the hidden elements of nothing short of a miracle. Even the birth of Jesus had many mortal issues attached. The neighbors began to talk. Skeptics spread doubt and shame on the new Mother to be. Mary began to think about the pain of bearing a child and was afraid. Joseph wondered what he had done to be involved in such a story.

When the blind man received his vision he was embarrassed at his own looks. His home was nasty of cluttered and he may have hid his eyes in shame.

Until we live the mortal side of a blessing, we have only lived in “*want*” and our minds are lured into thinking that once we receive a blessing that somehow the “mortal” side of our lives will vanish.

In this harsh reality, we have the help of God.

Jesus was sent to teach us how to identify our blessings. In addition to our blessing we are taught how to count our blessings, seeing them for what they really are even when they are mixed into our messy and not so perfect mortal life.

Example:

In John Steinbeck’s short story *The Pearl*, a poor fisherman and his wife harvest a huge pearl. With this blessing came the envy from the village people, many of whom had so much more than the simple family. They lived in fear trying to protect the pearl from thieves. The mortal side of being blessed with such a find became too great that they threw the pearl back into the sea.

For Us:

This year it might help to examine the blessings in our lives.

Learning to see the blessing instead of the mortal issues surrounding them make it easier to celebrate our blessings.

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