**Module 6: The True Understanding of Blessing (Payoff, Favor and Blessing)**

In the last session we tried to understand the concept of Payoff and some scriptures showing the importance of payoff in our lives.

If a person is very sincere, good at heart, compassionate and strong believer. He does all work for Church and very helpful in community. But he didn’t prepare for exam and he went to exam, what happens? Will God make him topper or make him pass? Never it will happen because our God is just God.

We also talked about Grace and Karma. If we take his grace for granted, we will go through difficulties here on earth as well as in the eternity. So, never say **IT’S OK**. Because it’s not OK for God to let us die again and again in this worldly race. Paul says run for his kingdom and run in such a way to receive the prize kept for you and do not look to others what they have. You are unique in God’s sight.

Today we are going to discuss about the concept of Favor in our lives.

**Session 6.1: The concept of Favor**

**Favor:** An overwhelmed feeling of joy that comes out of heart with a strong positive desire about any person**.** It normally comes based on their nature and relation with that person.

For example, we can see many people around us who touch the feet of elder for their so. Called blessings. What happens or what they think, if we don’t touch their feet?

* We don’t know customs/ traditions.
* We don’t know to respect elders.
* We are arrogant or of no use.
* Whatever problems we have is because of this nature.
* God should make us known about this through some pain/curse/ something

What can we understand from this? By touching their feet we are satisfying their ego and trying to get their favor upon us. But if we see some people, we feel automatically very happy/ joyful in our hearts. Automatically blessing words will overflow from our mouth. What’s that behavior? Its real favor of people.

Scripture says in Proverbs 3: 3-4

Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart. **4**Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.

If we fill ourself with God’s love and faithfulness, we will get automatically the favor of people and God. Favor comes straight from heart based on the nature and behavior or by our kind acts.

Let’s see the Ruth’s life to understand more. The 2nd chapter of Ruth is full of positive words and flowing favor among people.

In Ruth 2:4 Boaz blessed his servants and in return they also blessed him.

**4**It was then that Boaz came back from Bethlehem and said to the reapers, “The Lord be with you!” And they answered him, “The Lord bless you!”

Lot of time the relation between owner and servants will not be such good that they bless each other. Here it shows the overflow of joy in their hearts for their master just because of his kind nature.

Similarly, when Boaz enquired about Ruth, the overseer or in-charge told Boaz kind words about Ruth as to do some Favor. Its just because of the Ruth’s situation and for her behavior.

Vs 5-7 **5**Then Boaz said to his servant who was in charge of the reapers, “Whose young woman is this?” **6**The servant in charge of the reapers answered, “She is the young Moabite woman who came back with Naomi from the country of Moab. **7**And she said, ‘Please let me glean and gather after the reapers among the [[b](https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Ruth%202&version=AMP#fen-AMP-7157b)]sheaves.’ So she came and has continued [gathering grain] from early morning until now, except when she sat [resting] for a little while in the [field] house.”

The in-charge was highlighting her hardworking nature to master so that, she should get some favor from him. We may assume that it may be of just kind gesture as Ruth lost everything and she is young widow. We feel sorry for such situations and try to help them. But we never spoke a positive report even about such persons, if their behavior/ nature is not humble/ good. So, Its definitely because of her behavior.

Later Ruth blessed Boaz

Vs 8-9 **8**Then Boaz said to Ruth, “Listen carefully, my daughter. Do not go to glean in another field or leave this one, but stay here close by my maids. **9**Watch which field they reap, and follow behind them. I have commanded the servants not to touch you. And when you are thirsty, go to the [water] jars and drink from what the servants draw.”

After this, Ruth knelt down in front of him showing her humble nature. She didn’t touch his feet before to get his favor but she showed her thankfulness to him after getting favor. She asked him the reason for his favor and Boaz replied simply that, its Ruth’s nature and her good acts.

Read Vs 10-11 Then she kneeled face downward, bowing to the ground, and said to him, “Why have I found favor in your eyes that you should notice me, when I am a foreigner?” **11**Boaz answered her, “I have been made fully aware of everything that you have done for your mother-in-law since the death of your husband, and how you have left your father and mother and the land of your birth, and have come to a people that you did not know before.

In Vs 12-13, he blessed her that she should get her payoff from God for what she has done.

**12**May the Lord repay you for your kindness, and may your reward be full from the Lord, the God of Israel, under whose wings you have come to take refuge.” **13**Then she said, “Let me find favor in your sight, my lord, for you have comforted me and have spoken kindly to your maidservant, though I am not as one of your maidservants.”

In lunch time, he gave her food also and later

We think our good acts automatically bring blessings but even sometimes they don’t even bring favor of people. Unless otherwise, we have humble nature filled with love and faithfulness, we never receive favor from people.

Let me explain with a practical example to differentiate between Favor and Payoff,

There are two doctors. Both are intelligent and did well in all their exams and became experts in their field. Doctor 1 has a mindset to make enough money for a few generations and lead a luxurious life. Doctor 2 has a mindset of doing good service to patients and get good name among people. Both works hard and have similar success rates. Both are attentive to patients and tacle patients in similar ways. Now, both have earned a lot of money, had a big bunglow and car as well as other assets but who will people like more? Obviously, Doctor 2. Why? What made the difference? Because of his attitude towards work and life.

That’s favor of people and God.

In the same way, we can see the Ahab life (I Kings 21: 15-27). After the incident of Elijah killing baal prophets, Jezebel taking oath to kill Elijah and Elijah ran away and pleads God for death. Then God gives him a mission and comforts him. Later, Ahab wants vineyard of Naabot and Jezebel plots a sketch and kills him to take his vineyard. Then God’s word comes to Ahab through Elijah for destruction of his descendants. Then Ahab wear sack cloth and comes to Gods presence for forgiveness (Vs 27). Then God’s favor came upon Ahab and postponed the catastrophe from his lifetime to descendants (Vs 28-29).

15 When Jezebel heard that Naboth had been stoned and was dead, she said to Ahab, “Arise, take possession of the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite which he refused to sell you, because Naboth is no longer alive, but dead.” 16 When Ahab heard that Naboth was dead, he arose to go down to the vineyard of Naboth the Jezreelite, to take possession of it.

17 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 18 “Arise, go down to meet Ahab king of Israel, who is in Samaria. Behold, he is in the vineyard of Naboth, where he has gone to take possession of it. 19 You shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: “Have you murdered and also taken possession [of the victim’s property]?”’ And you shall speak to him, saying, ‘Thus says the Lord: “In the place where dogs licked up the blood of Naboth, dogs will lick up your blood as well.”’”

20 Ahab said to Elijah, “Have you found me, O my enemy?” And he answered, “I have found you, because you have sold yourself to do evil in the sight of the Lord. 21 Behold [says the Lord], I am bringing evil (catastrophe) on you, and will utterly sweep you away, and will cut off from Ahab every male, both bond and free in Israel; 22 and I will make your house (descendants) like that of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, and like the house of Baasha the son of Ahijah, for provoking Me to anger and making Israel sin. 23 The Lord also spoke in regard to Jezebel, saying, ‘The dogs will eat [the body of] Jezebel in the district of Jezreel.’ 24 The dogs will eat anyone belonging to Ahab who dies in the city, and the birds of the air will eat anyone who dies in the field.”

25 There certainly was no one like Ahab who sold himself to do evil in the sight of the Lord, because Jezebel his wife incited him. 26 He acted very repulsively in following idols, in accordance with everything the Amorites had done, whom the Lord expelled [from the land] before the sons of Israel.

27 Now when Ahab heard these words [of Elijah], he tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and fasted, and he lay in sackcloth and went about dejectedly (mourning). 28 Then the word of the Lord came to Elijah the Tishbite, saying, 29 “Do you see how Ahab has humbled himself before Me? Because he has humbled himself before Me, I will not bring the evil (catastrophe) in his lifetime, but in his son’s days I will bring evil upon his house.”

Lets go back to the example of Hezekiah. We have discussed that Hezekiah put his good deeds in front of God asking for extension of life. But in actual, Hezekiah got death penalty because he didn’t praise God and submit offerings after God’s miraculous help in winning the battle against Assyrian king Sennacherib. Scripture in II Chronicle 32:24-26 says

24 In those days Hezekiah became terminally ill; and he prayed to the Lord, and He answered him and gave him a [miraculous] sign. 25 But Hezekiah did nothing [for the Lord] in return for the benefit bestowed on him, because his heart had become proud; therefore God’s wrath came on him and on Judah and Jerusalem. 26 However, Hezekiah humbled his proud heart, both he and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, so that the wrath of the Lord did not come on them during the days of Hezekiah.

So, its not payoff that he got his life extension but its God’s favor that his payoff for his pride has been postponed to next generation. Similarly, the curse of Eli also postponed upto some generation due to God’s favor and people favor.

Hope it is very much clear now the difference between favor and payoff. Our payoff can be altered by Favor of people and God

Favor of people and God in Ruth’s life increased her positive payoff

Favor of people and God in Eli’s life, Hezekiah’s life and Ahab’s life has reduced the impact of actual payoff and it postponed to descendants.

Our humble nature and our behaviour along with faithfulness in God will bring favor of people and God which in turn can result in positive payoff in our lives.

Scripture says in Luke 2:52 And Jesus kept increasing in wisdom and in stature, and in favor with God and men.

Let’s be the children of God in getting the favor of abba father and people and paid highly in the righteous site of God.

Praise the Lord!