

Series: Come Boldly Unto the Thron

# THAT THOU Wouldest Bless Me

## 1 CHRONICLES 4

Text: 1 Chronicles 4:10

### **1 Chronicles 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> *And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, **Oh that thou wouldest bless me** indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

Introduction:

This is a chapter you might skip over in reading through the Bible. But there is a gem among these generations. The gem is a life-changing prayer, and this is a prayer that deserves our study.

The man who prayed this prayer was named Jabez.

Jabez' name means "sorrow," "burden" or "miserable." Can you imagine what a hard time this little fellow must have had when he was a boy with a name like sorrow, burden or miserable?

The Bible says that his mother called him Jabez because she had borne him in sorrow (1 Chron. 4:9). A hard time at birth had labeled his name.

But none of us are bound to our upbringing or trapped by former circumstances...with God's help and blessing we can rise from the muck of the pit and be something more for Him!

Notice this prayer:

This was a prayer for:

## 1. GRACE

### **1 Chronicles 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> *And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, **Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed**, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

Jabez called on the God of Israel and asked for the blessing of God.

Of course, the blessing of God begins with the Grace of God.

The Bible explains to us in Ephesians 2:8,9

### **Ephesians 2:8-9**

<sup>8</sup> *For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is the gift of God: <sup>9</sup> Not of works, lest any man should boast.*

In Hebrews 4:16 we are encouraged:

**Hebrews 4:16**

<sup>16</sup> *Let us therefore come boldly unto the throne of grace, that we may obtain mercy, and **find grace** to help in time of need.*

If a person is going to come to God, he has to start at the starting place and receive the gift of God and the Grace of God.

Jabez realized that he must start with grace!

Note not only did he pray for Grace but also:

## **2. GROWTH**

**1 Chronicles 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> *And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and **enlarge my coast**, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

He was not satisfied to remain the same.

- Sometimes small churches look at themselves and say, “Oh, we can’t do this and we can’t do that because we are too small. We don’t have the resources.” And their vision gets limited by their circumstances and instead of taking giant steps of faith, they take baby steps.

Illustration:

I’m reminded of the story of a man who had done something wonderful and the king called him in and told him he could mark off as much of the kingdom as he wanted and it would be his. The man took his staff and traced a line in the dirt around himself.

The king watched as he finished and said, “Is that all you want? Just what’s in that circle?” The man said, “NO. I want everything OUTSIDE the circle.”

What if we drew a line around this building and said we want to claim all the territory beyond this place for God?

Jabez looked beyond where he was and what he could do to where God was and what God could do. We can take a lesson from the vision of Jabez. Let’s not sell ourselves short. Don’t put God in a box...think of everything that’s outside these 4 walls.

Note not only did he pray for “Grace”, and “Growth” but also:

### 3. GUIDANCE

#### **1 Chronicles 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> *And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and **that thine hand might be with me**, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

Jabez prayed for the hand of the Lord to be upon him. He wanted the guidance and leadership of the Lord.

Illustration:

Get someone to come to the platform and lead them around while talking.

If you really want to be used of God, learn this simple lesson.

Let God be in complete control to lead you and guide you in His will.

Jabez prayed for the guidance of the Lord.

Note not only did he pray for “Grace”, “Growth” and “Guidance” but also:

## 4. GODLINESS

### **1 Chronicles 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> *And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and **that thou wouldest keep me from evil**, that it may not grieve me! And God granted him that which he requested.*

Jabez prayed that God would deliver him from evil or keep him away from sin.

This means godliness.

We read in Psalms 12:

### **Psalm 12:1**

<sup>1</sup> *Help, LORD; for the godly man ceaseth; for the faithful fail from among the children of men.*

This prophesies that the godly men will cease from the earth. This prophecy seems to have been fulfilled today but we are instructed:

### **1 Timothy 4:7**

<sup>7</sup> *But refuse profane and old wives' fables, and exercise thyself rather unto godliness.*

### **Titus 2:12**

<sup>12</sup> *Teaching us that, denying ungodliness and worldly lusts, we should live soberly, righteously, and godly, in this present world;*

### **2 Peter 1:6**

<sup>6</sup> *And to knowledge temperance; and to temperance patience; and to patience godliness;; and to patience godliness;*

Close:

Our text says, "And God granted him that which he requested."

### **1 Chronicles 4:10**

<sup>10</sup> *And Jabez called on the God of Israel, saying, Oh that thou wouldest bless me indeed, and enlarge my coast, and that thine hand might be with me, and that thou wouldest keep me from evil, that it may not grieve me!*  
**And God granted him that which he requested.**

The Bible says "ye have not because ye ask not." God wants to bless us, but He wants us to ask, and to ask from the right heart out of the right motive.

### **Matthew 7:7-11**

<sup>7</sup> *Ask, and it shall be given you; seek, and ye shall find; knock, and it shall be opened unto you:* <sup>8</sup> *For every one that asketh receiveth; and he that seeketh findeth; and*

*to him that knocketh it shall be opened. <sup>9</sup> Or what man is there of you, whom if his son ask bread, will he give him a stone? <sup>10</sup> Or if he ask a fish, will he give him a serpent? <sup>11</sup> If ye then, being evil, know how to give good gifts unto your children, **how much more shall your Father which is in heaven give good things to them that ask him?***

We should not just ask for financial blessings and enlargement, but for spiritual growth and Godliness, for guidance in all things!