



Words of Blessing

EMAIL ADDRESS: wob@wordsofblessing.com
OUR WEB SITE: www.wordsofblessing.com

High School Weekly Words Advent Week 3: December 17, 2006

Living the Word

John 21:15-17 After they had eaten, Jesus said to Simon Peter, “Simon son of John, do you love me more than these others do?” “Yes, Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my lambs.” A second time Jesus said to him, “Simon son of John do you love me?” “Yes, Lord,” he answered, “you know that I love you.” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep. A third time Jesus said, “Simon son of John, do you love me?” Peter became sad because Jesus asked him the third time, “Do you love me?” and so he said to him, “Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you!” Jesus said to him, “Take care of my sheep.

God’s Vision for Your Life, Gifts, and Talents

God had a plan and a vision when he created the world. Another part of his plan was his vision for your life, gifts, and talents. God created you, and another part of his plan was to give you wonderful talents and gifts to use in building a world and bringing its people to know and love him. He wanted a world that reflects his love and glory and where even today his plan can be lived out more and more each day in each person. God wants to draw you and all his people close. He wants to fill you to overflowing with his love, words, and reality.

God’s plan and vision for the world was to send me, his only son, into the world to bring people our love, words, and reality. God wanted people to come together as one—in me. After my death and resurrection, and filled with the power of the Holy Spirit, people continued to go out using their witnesses, lives, gifts, and talents to share God’s vision and love for all.

My child, I have a plan for you and your life. I keep trying to show you how to fulfill that goal. How can you learn about God’s vision for you today? Begin with making time for me each day so you can see the plan, and so you can learn about me, about your gifts, and about the many ways you can use them to share my love, words, and reality. The plan for you is there. It involves using your gifts in my name in your church, community, and world—not alone but with others who are also filled with the Holy Spirit. These companions will help each other remain open to the power of the Holy Spirit.

Take time each day for quiet prayer and listening. Each day, as the sun rises, you will see the light and will see how and where your gifts and talents can be used. I need you to give me your life. Your life is a gift from God, so everything you do reflects his love. God’s vision for your life is to be a friend to many in a church, mission, ministry, school, job, or community. You can use your gifts by being my hands. All you have to do is give back just a little bit of the blessings

you have received this year. Open your eyes and see your brothers, sisters, family, friends, and neighbors who are alone. Love them, feed them, and be a friend who listens and cares.

I want you to expand your vision of my people to include the homeless, poor, hungry, lonely, aged, and those who are in distant lands. Include those who have addictions, those who are emotionally troubled, and those who need spiritual support or a listener. You don't have to talk—just “do.” Your gifts, life, and talents are not about planning to do things but just doing them. Look and see that my people and church are struggling. In places my churches are empty, so bring people to fill them. Invite everyone you meet or talk to. Call or write notes to people and encourage them to come. Assure them they are needed and welcomed. If you are not attending a church or a chapel, why not? Go with a friend. Ask your parents or family to go with you or at least to take you. (Then you can get them to come with you later! No excuses!)

The gospel is about what I have done for you. It is about what you must do today. Pick up your cross and follow. That is the vision for your life. The journey may not always be easy. For some the cross is very heavy, but I can see that as you get rid of all the busyness and distractions in your life or stop sitting at home alone, you will live out my vision of a life that is meant to share the Good News and bless many. There is a plan, a loving and wonderful plan for your life and how you use your talents and gifts. It is and will be exciting. The vision I have for you is that you will go out and do greater things in my name than you can imagine. You will use your talents to show others how to use their gifts to witness; help and bless others; be a good friend; bring the gospel out; and offer life, hope, and a listening ear in my name. I love you and I am counting on you.

Eggs: No two eggs are alike. Eggs are different shapes and sizes. They represent many things to people today: new life, Easter, or a new beginning. Eggs can be hidden, shared, and celebrated.

Important: I ask you and want you to read these words many times in the month ahead, but especially this week. I ask you to share these words with others. If you have a group, share the words with them, but also share with other groups and individuals or get a new group together, especially for those who are not sharing with others right now. Go to church each week and offer to share the words with others. Everyone needs to share the weekly words with as many others as they can during all of the weeks of Advent through Epiphany. You should not be reading and working with these words alone. My love, words, and reality are meant to be shared with others. Do your part. Make the time; you have it and can do it. This is a gift to you, and it is very important. My words in the weeks to come will shape the year ahead for you. They are a very special gift to you.

Word for the week: Gifts

Prayer question: Who would be best helped or served by your gifts, time, and resources? Write down your ideas. What can and will you do? What would you decide to do right now—today?

Action for the week: There is a plan for your life. You can begin to use your gifts and talents in a greater way in the next year. What would you like to do or be for a future career? Take time each day to pray and be still. Look around you: outside, in your school, at your job, in your home—everywhere. See it all from my view. See things in your life as God does. He sees this vision of you doing what you would be great at doing and be happy doing. Write down three things you believe God sees for you to do. Pray about how you would do any or all of them. Share this with a group or with two or three friends.

Witness my love and reality: Write down the gifts you think God has given you, both natural gifts and spiritual gifts, such as a concern for the poor, healing, prayer, evangelism, teaching, writing, the health field, counseling, preaching, leading, being a coach, or other things. Open the door to see where this leads you. Begin soon. Share your ideas with two friends. And I encourage you to share your thoughts with your parents and family. Know that together you will see God's vision for you and for your life, gifts, and talents.

Daily prayer for this week: Lord, open my eyes to the gifts you have given me. Give me courage and faith to step out in whatever area or need you are calling me to meet. Thank you for all you have given me. I am grateful for the blessings in my life and want to share them with others.

The following words are for you. You will know which ones speak to you and answer your questions or prayers. These personal words are guidance for you in your journey today.

- Think of the gifts and talents you have. Pick one of them and commit to trying to use this talent or gift in one new way, for me, in my name, in the next two months. After you figure this out, get a few other people to join you in doing this. Look for those whose gifts and talents are also needed to make this happen. It can be a big project or a simple project; it can be fun or serious.

- You have the gift of prayer. Have you ever seen a hen wait for her egg to hatch? It takes the same kind of patience that it takes to wait for an answer to prayer or to wait for me to answer a question. Think of your prayer for yourself today as being like the egg Lucy just laid in the hen house. It will be revealed and answered at the right time, when you are ready. I think you are just as patient as Lucy is.

- Imagine God seated in heaven with Jesus at his side. See the authority and love in them. They open a book, give it to you, and ask you to write down a prayer asking God to show you the answer to a question that will help you see what your gifts and talents are and how to use them.

- Did you see me last week? I was so visible and obvious! I smiled at you. I was standing and waiting for help. I was looking for you so I could show you how real I am and how very much a part of your life I am. I blessed you with new hope, new hope that peace and healing will come to you and you will see where you are needed to help and encourage others to find their talents.

- The vision I have for you is that you will go out and do greater things in my name than you can imagine. You will use your faith and talents to show others how to believe in their gifts and talents. You will share the gospel message by word and example. You will bless many people.

- There is a ministry for you, and it is so clear. It is right there! It will use your gifts and your warm heart, faith, and talents. A need is there for you to respond to. Just say yes and believe I will provide all you need. Ask for help and volunteers—a team will appear. Begin next year.

- I need you to bring my love, words, reality, and eggs to the world. That is the plan. That is the only plan. You are the one I am calling right now. I ask you to give me your life, your gifts, and your talents to make it happen. If you need help I will send Mitch, who is a wonderful angel, to get things going. His talent will be very obvious. Trust that it will work and will produce miracles.

- I have a vision of you. I see you inviting someone to come to church with you. You talk to this person about it and about your faith, your life, and who I am to you. Talk about why a Christian community is so important to you and to them. My words will fill you. The Holy Spirit will empower you, and you will see a miracle. My light will shine on this new beginning and call.

- I bless you for the faith and hope you offer to others in your life each day. Keep reaching out with a kind word, a hug, or a smile. You really helped a friend last week, and your friend was so happy and relieved. You are liked by so many kids and adults because of your caring ways.

- A ministry will unfold that you will feel called to be involved in. I will be involved too and will

empower the gifts you need. It will take time for prayer so you will know the right words to offer in support and encouragement. Prayer will strengthen your gifts of wisdom and faith. Say yes.

- School is busy right now. I see how much homework you have to do. At times there is lots of pressure. Know that you can take time in the middle of a project to just “be” and rest. Take time to talk to your parents or a sibling about anything at all. By sharing and talking you will relax. I think you are very special, amazing, and a delight to watch grow up and out into the world.
- I was in your school the other day, and I smiled at you. I think you were busy helping out a friend who was having some decisions to make. You are a caring person, but you are also very strong. The support and guidance you offered were really good. You made such a big difference in your friend’s life, you really did. Bless you for being such a good listening friend. I wanted to hug you!
- Your humility has always been a light in the lives of many. My vision for you has always been that you would use your gifts to bring others to me. You helped someone this week who really needed help with a problem or decision. I bless you for putting aside what you wanted to do then to just be with this person. You have a lot more friends than you realize. I watch you in school!
- Some are called, and that call did not skip you! God has given you life, called you, and fed you. He has blessed your gifts and talents and has shown you his love in countless ways. So what are you going to give back to him? What are you going to do in my name? If you cannot think of something now, pray about it and look for signs. I will put them out there. Watch for Leo. He has one of the signs.
- I need my churches to be filled with people who give thanks for their blessings and receive their gifts, talents, and call. First, you must be there every week, and so must the others. No excuses. There is a church that needs you. You need that church, and that church will help you to see that you are loved. Your gifts can help. Don’t wake up one Easter and find no eggs and no basket.
- Your angel was there this week. Did you notice? Maybe you should keep looking for people wandering around in outfits that really stand out. Your angel blessed you because of the kind things you have done for others in your life, especially of late. Next time, wave back!
- You have the gifts of peace, love, and compassion. You can use them in your school, neighborhood, church, out in the world, in your home with your family, or even in a hospital. Your gifts are so needed everywhere in the world. Pray and look. You will know where to begin. Many wait for you. I think I have already given you a sign, it came in the mail.
- It is hard to tell what a child will grow up to be. A parent prays, guides, and teaches, but each child is unique and has his or her own gifts and talents. What did you want to be when you were a child? Do you think it can still happen? My vision for you is the same: to use your gifts and life to share my love, words, and reality in the world. Continue to live that out and let your faith in me be your anchor.
- You are very funny! I love your sense of humor and your funny comments that bring big smiles. Making others happy is something you are very good at doing. That is one of the greatest things to do in the world. I loved the outfit you wore in school this week—I had to smile!
- Sometimes God calls people to use their gifts to make me real to others right in their own home, school, or where they work. But sometimes, as with evangelists, people have to go out into the wider world to share the witness of my love, words, and reality. You have a story to share. Go.
- I love you. You make me smile and rejoice in how our love reaches more people each week. You are a humble soul who touches so many lives because your faith is unshakable and because you give all you have in my name. Our love touched and blessed one needy person this week. Do you remember?

- Many are called to lead and some are called to follow. Some are called to encourage others to lead. There are people in your life who are looking for a leader. And there are places and needs that are waiting for a leader to help them. I ask you to be the encourager, cheerleader, and supporter of others who can be leaders in many different places. Pray for them, love them, and send them out.

- Eggs can be a gift! I see them as a wonderful gift of life—eggs sustain people and create new life. Today, picture me giving you an egg. It is yellow and has blue polka dots on it. It is colorful and brings joy and smiles. It represents new life. Take my egg and use it and share it.

- I hear your prayers, and I am going to bless you with a simple but powerful miracle. It may not seem to be the answer or miracle you are asking for, but trust me—it is. I answer prayers in many ways. Believe that all will be well. You are going to be on the right path. I will be with you.

- Did you see me the other day? You have to look for me and believe you can and will see me. I smiled at you, and you smiled back. You have the gift of a caring heart. Your warmth and love are so clear in all you do for others. I blessed you with my love, and a special gift that is coming soon—maybe at Christmas. I love surprises, and I know you do, too. It is a big surprise!

- So many people are looking for me in their lives. They want to see me and know me in a special and powerful way. I ask you to make it your goal in life to use your gifts and your friendship in ways that make me very real to others. You begin this goal by making me real through your own story and call. You make me real by telling others about these words each week and by inviting them to your church, to events your church offers, and to your youth group activities.

- I love you and bless you. It is as simple as that in the journey of faith. I will always be here for you—wherever you go. When you wonder what to do next in your life, pray. Turn to me and listen for my words of love and wisdom. The path will then be clear and all will be well.

Read and pray my words to you

Please note that the Bible verses are drawn from the Good News Translation (or Today's English version), so references to a particular stopping place may not match your translation exactly.

Habakkuk 3:17

Ezekiel 34:30-31

Isaiah 26:3-4, 12

Jeremiah 17:7-8

Ezekiel 33:33 and 34:15

Amos 7:14-15

Ezekiel 34:11-12, 15

Psalms 31:5 and 14

Psalms 111:1-5

Psalms 68:3-4

Psalms 4:6-8

Psalms 97:11-12

Psalms 146:1-2

Psalms 138:3 and 8

Luke 8:1-3

Acts 16:13-15

John 3:30-35

Matthew 25:21-23

Mark 8:11
John 15:16-17
Acts 4:28-31
1 Peter 4:10-11
James 1:2-6 and 25
2 Timothy 1:6-7, 13-14
Philemon 4-7
1 Timothy 1:1-2 and 3:1
2 Peter 1:1-8

© Copyright 2006 - Words of Blessing Ministry - all rights reserved