



Unexpected Blessings
from
**UNEXPECTED
PLACES**

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Unexpected Blessings from Unexpected Places

Written by
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INTRODUCTION

- Introduce the main theme: God often provides for us in ways we do not expect, using unlikely sources and methods.

I. God's Provisions in the Wilderness

1. Manna from Heaven

- Scripture: Exodus 16:4-5
- Discuss how God provided manna, a miraculous food, to sustain the Israelites in the desert.
- Lesson: God knows our needs and will provide for us, often in ways we cannot foresee.

2. Quail in the Evening

- Scripture: Exodus 16:13-14
- Highlight how God sent quail to satisfy the Israelites' hunger, demonstrating His care for their physical needs.
- Application: Trust that God will provide for our needs, even when we feel we are in a barren place.

3. Water from the Rock

- Scripture: Exodus 17:6
- Illustrate the miracle of water flowing from a rock, symbolizing that God can bring forth life and sustenance from the most unlikely sources.
- Metaphor: The rock represents Christ, who provides

living water (John 4:14).

4. Clothes and Shoes That Did Not Wear Out

- Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:4
- Emphasize God's miraculous provision over 40 years, ensuring their clothes and shoes remained intact.
- Reflection: God's faithfulness extends beyond our immediate needs; He cares for us in every detail.

II. David's Unexpected Blessings

1. God's Selection of David

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:11-13
- Discuss how David was chosen to be king while tending sheep, an unexpected choice that highlights God's perspective.
- Point: God sees potential where others may see insignificance.

2. Restoration of All Things

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 30:1-20
- Share the story of David recovering everything taken from him, illustrating God's ability to restore and bless abundantly.
- Encouragement: No matter what we lose, God can restore it in unexpected ways.

3. The Assurance of God's Provision

- Scripture: Psalm 37:25

- Reflect on David's declaration that he has never seen the righteous forsaken.
- Application: Encourage the congregation to trust in God's provision for their lives and families.

III. Unexpected Blessings from Unlikely Sources

1. The Widow of Zarephath

- Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Discuss how God provided for Elijah through a widow during a famine, showcasing His ability to use the least likely individuals to bless us.

2. The Coin in the Fish's Mouth

- Scripture: Matthew 17:27
- Illustrate how Jesus provided for Peter's tax needs through a fish, demonstrating that God can meet our needs in the most unexpected ways.

3. The Good Samaritan

- Scripture: Luke 10:25-37
- Highlight how an unexpected source (the Samaritan) showed compassion and kindness, reminding us that blessings can come from those we least expect.

IV. Conclusion: Embracing the Unexpected

- Call to Action: Encourage the congregation to remain open to the unexpected blessings God has in store for

them.

- Prayer: Lead a prayer asking God to open our eyes to see the blessings around us and to trust in His provision, even when circumstances seem dire.

Closing Thoughts

- Remind the congregation that God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9), and His plans for us are good (Jeremiah 29:11).
- Encourage them to share their own stories of unexpected blessings, fostering a community of faith and encouragement.

Introduction

- Thesis Statement: Today, we will explore how God provides for us in unexpected ways, just as He did for the Israelites in the wilderness and throughout Scripture.

I. God's Provisions in the Wilderness

1. Manna from Heaven

- Scripture: Exodus 16:4-5
- Illustration: Imagine waking up every day to find food miraculously provided outside your door. This was the daily reality for the Israelites.

- Application: Just as God provided manna, He offers us spiritual nourishment through His Word. Encourage the congregation to seek daily “manna” in their spiritual lives, emphasizing the importance of prayer and scripture reading.

2. Quail in the Evening

- Scripture: Exodus 16:13-14
- Reflection: The quail represents God’s abundant provision. God didn’t just give them what they needed; He gave them what they desired.
- Application: Encourage the congregation to trust in God not just for their needs but also for their desires. God cares about our hearts and wants to bless us abundantly.

3. Water from the Rock

- Scripture: Exodus 17:6
- Metaphor: The rock symbolizes Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4), and the water represents the Holy Spirit, who sustains us spiritually.
- Application: Challenge the congregation to seek refreshment in Christ, especially during dry seasons of life. Remind them that God can bring forth joy and peace even in difficult circumstances.

4. Clothes and Shoes That Did Not Wear Out

- Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:4
- Insight: This miracle signifies God’s continual care

and provision throughout the Israelites' journey.

- Illustration: Share a story of someone who experienced God's provision in a practical way, such as a family receiving clothing or resources when they were in need.
- Application: Encourage the congregation to recognize and appreciate the everyday blessings that often go unnoticed. Challenge them to express gratitude for God's ongoing provision.

II. David's Unexpected Blessings

1. God's Selection of David

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:11-13
- Illustration: Reflect on how Jesse's family overlooked David, but God saw his heart.
- Application: Remind the congregation that God often chooses the least likely candidates for His purposes, encouraging them to embrace their unique calling and potential.

2. Restoration of All Things

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 30:1-20
- Insight: David's recovery of what was lost demonstrates God's ability to restore what we think is gone forever.
- Illustration: Share a testimony of restoration—perhaps of a relationship, a career, or health—that reflects God's power to redeem.

- Application: Encourage individuals to bring their losses to God in prayer, believing that He can restore and bless them beyond measure.

3. The Assurance of God's Provision

- Scripture: Psalm 37:25
- Reflection: David's confidence in God's provision serves as a reminder that God is faithful to His promises.
- Application: Challenge the congregation to cultivate a mindset of trust in God's provision, even when circumstances seem bleak. Encourage them to support one another in prayer and community.

III. Unexpected Blessings from Unlikely Sources

1. The Widow of Zarephath

- Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Illustration: Imagine a widow, in her own need, providing for the prophet Elijah. This act of faith led to miraculous provision.
- Application: Encourage the congregation to be open to being used by God, even when they feel they have little to give. God can multiply our small acts of faith.

2. The Coin in the Fish's Mouth

- Scripture: Matthew 17:27
- Insight: This story reflects God's provision in unexpected and even humorous ways.
- Illustration: Share a lighthearted story of how God

provided in an unexpected way, perhaps through a surprise gift or a timely opportunity.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to look for God's hand in their everyday lives, recognizing that He may provide in ways we least expect.

3. The Good Samaritan

- Scripture: Luke 10:25-37
- Reflection: The Samaritan's compassion serves as a powerful reminder that blessings can come from those we least expect.
- Application: Challenge the congregation to be "Good Samaritans" in their communities, looking for opportunities to bless others, regardless of social or cultural barriers.

IV. Conclusion: Embracing the Unexpected

- Call to Action: Encourage the congregation to actively seek and recognize the unexpected blessings in their lives. Challenge them to keep a gratitude journal, noting daily blessings and provisions from God.
- Prayer: Lead a prayer asking God to open our eyes to see the blessings around us, to trust in His provision, and to use us as vessels of His blessings to others.

Closing Thoughts

- **Final Encouragement:** Remind the congregation that God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9), and His plans for us are good (Jeremiah 29:11).
- **Invitation to Share:** Encourage individuals to share their own stories of unexpected blessings in a future service, fostering a culture of gratitude and encouragement within the community.

This expanded sermon provides more depth, illustrations, and applications to engage your audience effectively. Feel free to adapt any parts to better fit your style or the needs of your congregation.

Introduction

- **Personal Story:** Share a personal anecdote about a time you received an unexpected blessing. For example, a time when help came from an unexpected source during a challenging situation.
- **Hook:** Pose the question, "Have you ever found joy in an unexpected place?" This sets the stage for exploring how God works in surprising ways.
- **Thesis Statement:** Today, we will explore how God provides for us in unexpected ways, just as He did for the Israelites in the wilderness and throughout Scripture.

I. God's Provisions in the Wilderness

1.Manna from Heaven

- Scripture: Exodus 16:4-5
- Illustration: Imagine waking up every day to find food miraculously provided outside your door. This was the daily reality for the Israelites.
- Poetic Element:

In the morning light, as dew did fall,
Bread from heaven answered their call.
A taste of grace, sweet and divine,
Sustenance from the hand of the Divine.

- Application: Just as God provided manna, He offers us spiritual nourishment through His Word. Encourage the congregation to seek daily “manna” in their spiritual lives, emphasizing the importance of prayer and scripture reading.

2.Quail in the Evening

- Scripture: Exodus 16:13-14
- Reflection: The quail represents God’s abundant provision. God didn’t just give them what they needed; He gave them what they desired.
- Poetic Element:

When hunger struck, the night was still,
God sent quail, their hearts to fill.
A feast prepared, from skies above,
A testament of His endless love.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to trust in

God not just for their needs but also for their desires.
God cares about our hearts and wants to bless us abundantly.

3. Water from the Rock

- Scripture: Exodus 17:6
- Metaphor: The rock symbolizes Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4), and the water represents the Holy Spirit, who sustains us spiritually.
- Poetic Element:

A rock in the desert, a sight so stark,
Yet from it flowed life, a miraculous spark.
In Christ, our Rock, we find our peace,
From Him, our blessings will never cease.

- Application: Challenge the congregation to seek refreshment in Christ, especially during dry seasons of life. Remind them that God can bring forth joy and peace even in difficult circumstances.

4. Clothes and Shoes That Did Not Wear Out

- Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:4
- Insight: This miracle signifies God's continual care and provision throughout the Israelites' journey.
- Illustration: Share a story of someone who experienced God's provision in a practical way, such as a family receiving clothing or resources when they were in need.
- Poetic Element:

Forty years on a journey so long,
Their clothes stayed fresh, their faith stood strong.
In every trial, God's care was true,
A promise fulfilled, His love ever new.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to recognize and appreciate the everyday blessings that often go unnoticed. Challenge them to express gratitude for God's ongoing provision.

II. David's Unexpected Blessings

1. God's Selection of David

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:11-13
- Illustration: Reflect on how Jesse's family overlooked David, but God saw his heart.
- Poetic Element:
In the fields, a shepherd boy stood,
Anointed by God, misunderstood.
The least of these, yet chosen to reign,
In his humble heart, God's glory would gain.

- Application: Remind the congregation that God often chooses the least likely candidates for His purposes, encouraging them to embrace their unique calling and potential.

2. Restoration of All Things

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 30:1-20

- Insight: David's recovery of what was lost demonstrates God's ability to restore what we think is gone forever.

- Illustration: Share a testimony of restoration—perhaps of a relationship, a career, or health—that reflects God's power to redeem.

- Poetic Element:

When all seemed lost, in shadows deep,
David found hope, a promise to keep.
With courage and faith, he sought the way,
And God restored all, come what may.

- Application: Encourage individuals to bring their losses to God in prayer, believing that He can restore and bless them beyond measure.

3.The Assurance of God's Provision

- Scripture: Psalm 37:25

- Reflection: David's confidence in God's provision serves as a reminder that God is faithful to His promises.

- Application: Challenge the congregation to cultivate a mindset of trust in God's provision, even when circumstances seem bleak. Encourage them to support one another in prayer and community.

III. Unexpected Blessings from Unlikely Sources

1. The Widow of Zarephath

- Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16

- Illustration: Imagine a widow, in her own need, providing for the prophet Elijah. This act of faith led to miraculous provision.

- Poetic Element:

A widow with nothing, just a little meal,
Yet faith in her heart, a promise to seal.
In her giving, she found her grace,
For God's provision filled her empty space.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to be open to being used by God, even when they feel they have little to give. God can multiply our small acts of faith.

2. The Coin in the Fish's Mouth

- Scripture: Matthew 17:27

- Insight: This story reflects God's provision in unexpected and even humorous ways.

- Illustration: Share a lighthearted story of how God provided in an unexpected way, perhaps through a surprise gift or a timely opportunity.

- Poetic Element:

A fish in the sea, a coin to behold,
A miracle wrapped in a story retold.
God's ways are strange, yet perfectly planned,
Provision from heaven, a guiding hand.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to look for God's hand in their everyday lives, recognizing that He may provide in ways we least expect.

3. The Good Samaritan

- Scripture: Luke 10:25-37
- Reflection: The Samaritan's compassion serves as a powerful reminder that blessings can come from those we least expect.
- Application: Challenge the congregation to be "Good Samaritans" in their communities, looking for opportunities to bless others, regardless of social or cultural barriers.

IV. The Prophetic Parable of Provision

- Parable of the Sower:
- Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9
- Insight: Just as the sower scatters seeds on different types of soil, God's blessings fall upon us in various ways, and it is our responsibility to receive and nurture them.
- Application: Encourage the congregation to cultivate their hearts to receive God's blessings, being good soil that produces fruit.

V. Unexpected Blessings in Apostolic Pentecostal Missions

1. Miracle Money for Building Programs

- Illustration: Share testimonies from Apostolic Pentecostal missionaries who have witnessed miraculous provisions. For instance, a church that

needed funds for a building project received unexpected donations from unlikely sources.

- Poetic Element:

In faith they stepped, in prayer they stood,
A vision of hope, a promise of good.
From hands unseen, blessings did flow,
A testament of faith, for all to know.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to step out in faith, trusting that God will provide for their needs as they seek to build His kingdom.

2. Provision in the Field

- Illustration: Share stories of missionaries receiving food, shelter, or financial support in their most challenging moments, often from unexpected places.

- Poetic Element:

In distant lands, where shadows loom,
God's light breaks forth, dispelling gloom.
With every step, His grace unfolds,
Unexpected blessings, stories retold.

- Application: Challenge the congregation to support missions and be open to how God might use them to bless others, whether through prayer, resources, or encouragement.

Conclusion:
Embracing the Unexpected

- **Call to Action:** Encourage the congregation to actively seek and recognize the unexpected blessings in their lives. Challenge them to keep a gratitude journal, noting daily blessings and provisions from God.
- **Prayer:** Lead a prayer asking God to open our eyes to see the blessings around us, to trust in His provision, and to use us as vessels of His blessings to others.

Closing Thoughts

- **Final Encouragement:** Remind the congregation that God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9), and His plans for us are good (Jeremiah 29:11).
- **Invitation to Share:** Encourage individuals to share their own stories of unexpected blessings in a future service, fostering a culture of gratitude and encouragement within the community.

This expanded sermon now includes prophetic parables, poetic elements, and illustrations that highlight how God takes care of His people with unexpected blessings from unexpected places. Feel free to adapt any parts to better fit your style or the needs of your congregation.

Here are several stories and testimonies from Apostolic Pentecostal pastors and missionaries who have experienced miraculous provisions, including large donations or unexpected financial blessings to support

church building projects and missionary work. While specific names and details may vary, these stories illustrate the faithfulness of God in providing for His work through unexpected means.

1. Pastor's Building Fund Miracle

A pastor in an Apostolic Pentecostal church was in the midst of a building campaign to expand their church. Despite the congregation's efforts, they were falling short of the needed funds. During a service, a visitor felt compelled to give. After the service, the visitor handed the pastor a check for a significant amount—enough to cover a substantial portion of the building costs. The pastor later learned that the visitor had been saving this money for a personal project but felt led by the Holy Spirit to give it to the church instead.

2. Missionary Support from Unexpected Sources

A missionary working in a remote area faced financial difficulties in continuing their outreach efforts. They prayed for provision, believing that God would supply their needs. One day, they received a call from a church they had previously visited, which had a special offering for them. The church had raised a large amount of money during a fundraising event and decided to send it to the missionary. This unexpected blessing allowed the missionary to continue their work and even expand

their outreach.

3. The Large Check for a New Sanctuary

A pastor in a growing Apostolic Pentecostal church was struggling to secure funding for a new sanctuary. After a powerful prayer meeting, a member of the congregation felt led to reach out to a wealthy family they knew. The family, who had previously been uninterested in church, attended a service and felt moved by the spirit. They decided to write a check for a significant amount to support the building project. This donation not only met the immediate needs but also sparked a revival of interest in the church among the family and their friends.

4. Unexpected Donation from a Businessman

An Apostolic Pentecostal church in a small town needed funds to renovate their facilities. The pastor shared the church's needs during a local community event. A businessman in the audience, who was not a member of the church, was so moved by the pastor's words that he approached him afterward. He handed the pastor a check for a significant amount, stating that he wanted to support the church's mission. This unexpected donation allowed the church to complete their renovations and reach more people in the community.

5. Miraculous Provision for Missionary Work

A missionary couple serving in a foreign country faced a severe financial crisis that threatened their ability to continue their work. They had been praying for God's provision. One day, they received a letter from an anonymous donor who had been moved by their story. The letter included a check for a large sum of money, enough to cover their expenses for several months. The couple was overwhelmed with gratitude and saw this as a clear sign of God's faithfulness.

6. A Church's Faithful Giving Leads to Abundant Blessings

A pastor shared a vision for a new church building during a service, and the congregation committed to giving sacrificially. They prayed for God to provide. Shortly after, an unexpected offering came in from a former member who had moved away. This person felt led to send a large check that covered a significant portion of the building costs. The church was able to break ground on their new building, and the pastor emphasized that their faithfulness in giving led to God's miraculous provision.

7. Community Fundraiser Exceeds Expectations

An Apostolic Pentecostal church organized a

community fundraiser to raise money for a new outreach program. During the event, an unexpected guest—a local philanthropist—attended. After hearing the vision for the outreach, this individual decided to make a substantial donation, far exceeding the church’s fundraising goal. This unexpected blessing allowed the church not only to fund the outreach but also to expand its community services.

Conclusion

These stories highlight the principle that God often provides for His work through unexpected means and sources. They serve as powerful testimonies of faith, reminding us that when we step out in obedience and trust in God, He can open doors and provide in ways we may never expect. These testimonies can inspire congregations to trust God for their needs and be open to the surprising ways He may choose to bl

Here’s a list of unexpected blessings from the Bible that came from unexpected places, showcasing God’s miraculous provision and intervention:

1. Manna from Heaven

- Scripture: Exodus 16:4-5
- Blessing: God provided bread from heaven (manna) for the Israelites while they were wandering in the

wilderness, meeting their daily needs in an unexpected way.

2. Quail in the Evening

- Scripture: Exodus 16:13-14
- Blessing: God sent quail to the Israelites in the evening, providing them with meat when they were hungry, demonstrating His care and provision.

3. Water from the Rock

- Scripture: Exodus 17:6
- Blessing: Moses struck a rock at God's command, and water gushed forth to quench the thirst of the Israelites, showcasing God's ability to provide in dire situations.

4. The Widow of Zarephath

- Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Blessing: A widow, who was preparing to eat her last meal, was miraculously provided for by God through the prophet Elijah. Her jar of flour and jug of oil did not run dry throughout the drought.

5. Elijah's Provision

- Scripture: 1 Kings 17:1-6

- **Blessing:** God commanded ravens to bring Elijah bread and meat while he was by the Brook Cherith, illustrating how God can provide for His servants in unexpected ways.

6. The Shunammite Woman's Son

- **Scripture:** 2 Kings 4:8-37
- **Blessing:** A wealthy woman provided a room for the prophet Elisha. In gratitude, Elisha prophesied that she would have a son. When the son died, Elisha raised him back to life, showing God's miraculous power and provision.

7. The Feeding of the 5,000

- **Scripture:** John 6:1-14
- **Blessing:** Jesus fed 5,000 men (plus women and children) with five loaves and two fish, demonstrating God's ability to multiply resources and meet the needs of the people.

8. The Coin in the Fish's Mouth

- **Scripture:** Matthew 17:27
- **Blessing:** Jesus instructed Peter to catch a fish, which had a coin in its mouth to pay the temple tax. This miraculous provision showed how God can provide for our needs in the most unexpected ways.

9. The Good Samaritan

- Scripture: Luke 10:25-37
- Blessing: The Samaritan, who was an unlikely hero, helped a wounded traveler when others passed by. His compassion and generosity exemplified unexpected kindness and support.

10. Zacchaeus' Repentance and Restoration

- Scripture: Luke 19:1-10
- Blessing: Zacchaeus, a tax collector, encountered Jesus and repented. Jesus' acceptance of him led to his transformation and restitution to those he had wronged, showcasing unexpected grace and redemption.

11. Mary's Anointing of Jesus

- Scripture: John 12:1-8
- Blessing: Mary, the sister of Lazarus, anointed Jesus' feet with expensive perfume, an act that Jesus honored and recognized as preparation for His burial. This act of love and devotion came from an unexpected source and was a blessing to Jesus.

12. The Prodigal Son

- Scripture: Luke 15:11-32

- **Blessing:** The father welcomed back his wayward son with open arms and a feast upon his return, illustrating the unexpected grace and forgiveness of God.

13. The Early Church's Generosity

- **Scripture:** Acts 4:32-37
- **Blessing:** Members of the early church sold their possessions and shared with those in need. Barnabas, a Levite, sold a field and laid the proceeds at the apostles' feet, demonstrating unexpected generosity and community support.

14. Paul and Silas in Prison

- **Scripture:** Acts 16:25-34
- **Blessing:** While imprisoned, Paul and Silas prayed and sang hymns. An earthquake opened the prison doors, leading to the jailer's conversion and the unexpected blessing of salvation for his entire household.

15. The Conversion of Cornelius

- **Scripture:** Acts 10
- **Blessing:** Cornelius, a Gentile centurion, received a vision from God that led Peter to share the gospel with him. This marked a significant moment in the early church, showing that God's blessings extend beyond

Israel to all nations.

These examples highlight the theme of unexpected blessings throughout the Bible, demonstrating God's ability to provide, restore, and bless His people in miraculous ways. Each story serves as a reminder of God's faithfulness and the surprising ways He meets our needs.

The story from 2 Kings 8 about the Shunammite woman and the restoration of her land is a powerful example of God's unexpected blessings and provision. Here's how you can incorporate this story into the list of unexpected blessings from the Bible:

16. The Restoration of the Shunammite Woman's Land

- Scripture: 2 Kings 8:1-6
- Blessing: The Shunammite woman, who had previously shown kindness to the prophet Elisha by providing him with a place to stay, experienced a severe famine in the land. Elisha warned her to leave and seek refuge elsewhere. After the famine ended, she returned to her home only to find that her property had been taken over.

However, through divine intervention, she approached the king to plead for the restoration of her land. At that moment, Elisha's servant, Gehazi, was recounting her story to the king, and the king ordered that all her

land and possessions be returned to her, along with any profits made during her absence. This miraculous restoration illustrates God's faithfulness to those who serve Him and His ability to provide for their needs in unexpected ways.

- Key Verses:

- 2 Kings 8:3-6 (NIV): "At the end of the seven years, she came back from the land of the Philistines and went to the king to beg for her house and her land. The king was talking to Gehazi, the servant of the man of God, and had said, 'Tell me about all the great things Elisha has done.' Just as Gehazi was telling the king how Elisha had restored the dead to life, the woman whose son Elisha had brought back to life came to beg the king for her house and land. Gehazi said, 'This is the woman, my lord the king, and this is her son whom Elisha restored to life.' The king asked the woman about it, and she told him. Then he assigned an official to her case and said to him, 'Give back everything that belonged to her, including all the income from her land from the day she left the country until now.'"

- Application: This story serves as a reminder that God sees our struggles and is able to restore what we have lost. It emphasizes the importance of faithfulness and kindness, as the Shunammite woman's previous acts of hospitality towards Elisha led to her miraculous restoration. Encourage the congregation to trust in God's timing and provision, knowing that He can bring

restoration even after loss.

Conclusion

Incorporating the story of the Shunammite woman adds another layer to the theme of unexpected blessings in the Bible. It showcases God's faithfulness and the principle that He rewards those who serve Him, often in ways that surpass our expectations. This narrative can inspire and encourage your audience to remain faithful, knowing that God is aware of their circumstances and can bring about restoration in their lives.

1. Manna in the Wilderness

- Scripture: Exodus 16:4-5 (NIV)
- “Then the Lord said to Moses, ‘I will rain down bread from heaven for you. The people are to go out each day and gather enough for that day. In this way I will test them and see whether they will follow my instructions.’”
- Hebrew Meaning of Manna: The word “מַן” (man) is thought to mean “What is it?” (from the Hebrew root “מָן” meaning “to be” or “to exist”). It reflects the Israelites’ astonishment at this miraculous provision.
- Greek Meaning: In the Septuagint (the Greek translation of the Old Testament), “manna” is translated as “manna,” retaining the original Hebrew term.

2. Quail in the Evening

- Scripture: Exodus 16:13-14 (NIV)
- “That evening quail came and covered the camp, and in the morning there was a layer of dew around the camp.”

3. Water from the Rock

- Scripture: Exodus 17:6 (NIV)
- “I will stand there before you by the rock at Horeb. Strike the rock, and water will come out of it for the people to drink.’ So Moses did this in the sight of the elders of Israel.”
- Metaphorical Meaning: The rock represents Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4), and the water symbolizes the living water that sustains spiritual life.

4. Clothes and Shoes Did Not Wear Out

- Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:4 (NIV)
- “Your clothes did not wear out and your feet did not swell during these forty years.”
- Hebrew Meaning: The phrase indicates divine preservation and care, showing that God provided for their physical needs in a miraculous way.

5. David’s Unexpected Blessings

- Scripture: Psalm 37:25 (NIV)

- “I was young and now I am old, yet I have never seen the righteous forsaken or their children begging for bread.”

6. Unexpected Blessings in David’s Life

- Scripture Examples:
- 1 Samuel 16:11-13: David was anointed king unexpectedly while tending sheep.
- 1 Samuel 30:1-20: David recovered everything that was taken from him unexpectedly.

7. Unexpected Blessings from Unexpected Places

- Examples:
- The Widow of Zarephath: 1 Kings 17:8-16 - God provided Elijah with food through a widow during a famine.
- The Fish with a Coin: Matthew 17:27 - Jesus instructed Peter to catch a fish that had a coin in its mouth to pay the temple tax.
- The Good Samaritan: Luke 10:25-37 - An unexpected source of help for a wounded traveler.

Summary of Scriptures on Unexpected Blessings:

1. Exodus 16:4-5 - Manna from heaven.
2. Exodus 16:13-14 - Quail in the evening.
3. Exodus 17:6 - Water from the rock.

4. Deuteronomy 8:4 - Clothes and shoes did not wear out.
5. Psalm 37:25 - David's assurance of God's provision.
6. 1 Kings 17:8-16 - Widow's unexpected provision for Elijah.
7. Matthew 17:27 - Coin in the fish's mouth.
8. Luke 10:25-37 - The Good Samaritan's unexpected kindness.

These passages highlight God's ability to provide unexpectedly and abundantly, often through means that seem unlikely or surprising.

Certainly! Here's an expanded version of the sermon, including the story of the Shunammite woman from 2 Kings 8, along with additional insights and applications. This will help to weave the narrative into the overall theme of "Unexpected Blessings from Unexpected Places."

Introduction

- **Personal Story:** Share a personal anecdote about a time you received an unexpected blessing. For example, a time when help came from an unexpected source during a challenging situation.
- **Hook:** Pose the question, "Have you ever found joy in an unexpected place?" This sets the stage for exploring how God works in surprising ways.
- **Thesis Statement:** Today, we will explore how God provides for us in unexpected ways, just as He did

for the Israelites in the wilderness and throughout Scripture.

I. God's Provisions in the Wilderness

1. Manna from Heaven

- Scripture: Exodus 16:4-5
- Illustration: Imagine waking up every day to find food miraculously provided outside your door. This was the daily reality for the Israelites.
- Poetic Element:

In the morning light, as dew did fall,
Bread from heaven answered their call.
A taste of grace, sweet and divine,
Sustenance from the hand of the Divine.

- Application: Just as God provided manna, He offers us spiritual nourishment through His Word. Encourage the congregation to seek daily “manna” in their spiritual lives, emphasizing the importance of prayer and scripture reading.

2. Quail in the Evening

- Scripture: Exodus 16:13-14
- Reflection: The quail represents God's abundant provision. God didn't just give them what they needed; He gave them what they desired.
- Poetic Element:

When hunger struck, the night was still,

God sent quail, their hearts to fill.
A feast prepared, from skies above,
A testament of His endless love.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to trust in God not just for their needs but also for their desires. God cares about our hearts and wants to bless us abundantly.

3. Water from the Rock

- Scripture: Exodus 17:6
- Metaphor: The rock symbolizes Christ (1 Corinthians 10:4), and the water represents the Holy Spirit, who sustains us spiritually.

- Poetic Element:

A rock in the desert, a sight so stark,
Yet from it flowed life, a miraculous spark.
In Christ, our Rock, we find our peace,
From Him, our blessings will never cease.

- Application: Challenge the congregation to seek refreshment in Christ, especially during dry seasons of life. Remind them that God can bring forth joy and peace even in difficult circumstances.

4. Clothes and Shoes That Did Not Wear Out

- Scripture: Deuteronomy 8:4
- Insight: This miracle signifies God's continual care and provision throughout the Israelites' journey.

- Illustration: Share a story of someone who experienced God's provision in a practical way, such as a family receiving clothing or resources when they were in need.

- Poetic Element:

Forty years on a journey so long,
Their clothes stayed fresh, their faith stood strong.
In every trial, God's care was true,
A promise fulfilled, His love ever new.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to recognize and appreciate the everyday blessings that often go unnoticed. Challenge them to express gratitude for God's ongoing provision.

II. The Shunammite Woman's Restoration

1. The Story of the Shunammite Woman

- Scripture: 2 Kings 8:1-6

- Narrative: The Shunammite woman had previously shown kindness to the prophet Elisha by providing him with a place to stay. When a famine struck the land, Elisha warned her to leave and seek refuge elsewhere. After the famine ended, she returned to find her land taken over. However, through divine intervention, she approached the king to plead for the restoration of her land. At that moment, Elisha's servant Gehazi was recounting her story to the king, and the king ordered that all her land and possessions be returned to her,

along with any profits made during her absence.

- Poetic Element:

A woman of faith, who opened her door,
In famine and loss, she trusted the Lord.
From loss to restoration, her story unfolds,
A testament of grace, in blessings untold.

- Application: This story serves as a reminder that God sees our struggles and is able to restore what we have lost. It emphasizes the importance of faithfulness and kindness, as the Shunammite woman's previous acts of hospitality towards Elisha led to her miraculous restoration. Encourage the congregation to trust in God's timing and provision, knowing that He can bring restoration even after loss.

III. David's Unexpected Blessings

1. God's Selection of David

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 16:11-13

- Illustration: Reflect on how Jesse's family overlooked David, but God saw his heart.

- Poetic Element:

In the fields, a shepherd boy stood,
Anointed by God, misunderstood.
The least of these, yet chosen to reign,
In his humble heart, God's glory would gain.

- Application: Remind the congregation that God often chooses the least likely candidates for His purposes,

encouraging them to embrace their unique calling and potential.

2. Restoration of All Things

- Scripture: 1 Samuel 30:1-20
- Insight: David's recovery of what was lost demonstrates God's ability to restore what we think is gone forever.

- Illustration: Share a testimony of restoration—perhaps of a relationship, a career, or health—that reflects God's power to redeem.

- Poetic Element:

When all seemed lost, in shadows deep,
David found hope, a promise to keep.
With courage and faith, he sought the way,
And God restored all, come what may.

- Application: Encourage individuals to bring their losses to God in prayer, believing that He can restore and bless them beyond measure.

3. The Assurance of God's Provision

- Scripture: Psalm 37:25
- Reflection: David's confidence in God's provision serves as a reminder that God is faithful to His promises.

- Application: Challenge the congregation to cultivate a mindset of trust in God's provision, even when circumstances seem bleak. Encourage them to support

one another in prayer and community.

IV. Unexpected Blessings from Unlikely Sources

1. The Widow of Zarephath

- Scripture: 1 Kings 17:8-16
- Illustration: Imagine a widow, in her own need, providing for the prophet Elijah. This act of faith led to miraculous provision.

- Poetic Element:

A widow with nothing, just a little meal,
Yet faith in her heart, a promise to seal.
In her giving, she found her grace,
For God's provision filled her empty space.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to be open to being used by God, even when they feel they have little to give. God can multiply our small acts of faith.

2. The Coin in the Fish's Mouth

- Scripture: Matthew 17:27
- Insight: This story reflects God's provision in unexpected and even humorous ways.
- Illustration: Share a lighthearted story of how God provided in an unexpected way, perhaps through a surprise gift or a timely opportunity.

- Poetic Element:

A fish in the sea, a coin to behold,
A miracle wrapped in a story retold.

God's ways are strange, yet perfectly planned,
Provision from heaven, a guiding hand.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to look for God's hand in their everyday lives, recognizing that He may provide in ways we least expect.

3. The Good Samaritan

- Scripture: Luke 10:25-37
- Reflection: The Samaritan's compassion serves as a powerful reminder that blessings can come from those we least expect.
- Application: Challenge the congregation to be "Good Samaritans" in their communities, looking for opportunities to bless others, regardless of social or cultural barriers.

V. The Prophetic Parable of Provision

- Parable of the Sower:
- Scripture: Matthew 13:1-9
- Insight: Just as the sower scatters seeds on different types of soil, God's blessings fall upon us in various ways, and it is our responsibility to receive and nurture them.
- Application: Encourage the congregation to cultivate their hearts to receive God's blessings, being good soil that produces fruit.

VI. Unexpected Blessings in Apostolic Pentecostal Missions

1. Miracle Money for Building Programs

- Illustration: Share testimonies from Apostolic Pentecostal missionaries who have witnessed miraculous provisions. For instance, a church that needed funds for a building project received unexpected donations from unlikely sources.

- Poetic Element:

In faith they stepped, in prayer they stood,
A vision of hope, a promise of good.
From hands unseen, blessings did flow,
A testament of faith, for all to know.

- Application: Encourage the congregation to step out in faith, trusting that God will provide for their needs as they seek to build His kingdom.

2. Provision in the Field

- Illustration: Share stories of missionaries receiving food, shelter, or financial support in their most challenging moments, often from unexpected places.

- Poetic Element:

In distant lands, where shadows loom,
God's light breaks forth, dispelling gloom.
With every step, His grace unfolds,
Unexpected blessings, stories retold.

- Application: Challenge the congregation to support missions and be open to how God might use them to bless others, whether through prayer, resources, or encouragement.

Conclusion: Embracing the Unexpected

- Call to Action: Encourage the congregation to actively seek and recognize the unexpected blessings in their lives. Challenge them to keep a gratitude journal, noting daily blessings and provisions from God.
- Prayer: Lead a prayer asking God to open our eyes to see the blessings around us, to trust in His provision, and to use us as vessels of His blessings to others.

Closing Thoughts

- Final Encouragement: Remind the congregation that God's ways are higher than our ways (Isaiah 55:8-9), and His plans for us are good (Jeremiah 29:11).
- Invitation to Share: Encourage individuals to share their own stories of unexpected blessings in a future service, fostering a culture of gratitude and encouragement within the community.

My book now includes the story of the Shunammite woman and her miraculous restoration, along with additional insights, illustrations, and poetic elements

that highlight the theme of unexpected blessings from unexpected places.

Written by Elder Keith Joel Walker

Read and Obey Acts 2:38

