

BLESSINGS - LECRAE (FEAT. TY DOLLA \$IGN)



Remaining true to his beliefs, Lecrae is an artist that redefines mainstream popular culture. Thematically, one can find inspiration, faith and honesty in his music. But it's more than that and yet it is quite transparent. If Oscar Wilde was correct when he said, "Most people are other people, their thoughts are someone else's opinions, their lives a mimicry, their passions a quotation," it's simple to understand the easy attraction to Lecrae. In a sea of indulgent music, he's swimming against the tide embracing all the things that make him the man he is, including his faith. And at the heart of it all, Lecrae is pleased to share the secret to his success. He explains, "I just have to have integrity and be true to who I am and what I believe in."

The message of his music has attracted everyone from the kid in his basement making beats to the editors of some of the biggest publications in the world. Lecrae embraces the discovery and views it as an opportunity. "A mentor told me years ago, 'Lecrae you're not in the widget and gadget business, you're in the people business. As long as you take care of people, they'll take care of you.' So we've always looked at it as if we're not trying to sell CDs, we're trying to take care of people -- give them messages of hope and inspiration. Some people put content over art and the art suffers even though they may have a great message. Some people put their art over the content and that may win for the moment. It may be the summer jam, but it doesn't live with people for the rest of their lives. If you make great content and art and hold them up high, it stands the test of time," Lecrae reveals. But he doesn't want his music to be limited to people of faith. He explains, "If someone feeds a homeless man, you don't know why he's doing it, but the homeless person still appreciates the food. People want to feel what you believe and not just hear it. So let's talk about fatherlessness, let's talk about incarceration. Let's celebrate a relationship or a marriage or a child being born. Let's talk about social issues. Sure, I have a paradigm that I see the world through, but we all relate to those things and that's where we connect." And with the look of a man with a plan, he leans in and whispers, "When you influence the influential that's when you can begin to change culture."

Information from: http://www.newreleasetoday.com/artistdetail.php?artist_id=354

LYRICS

If I ever took a loss, I learned a lesson
I won't ever think I'm better than the next man
I've been down before the come up, I ain't stressin'
Baby I'm too busy countin' all these blessings

Yah, yah, yah
Count it up, count it up, count it up
Line 'em up, line 'em up, line 'em up
Swear the sun shinin' on me in my huddle
No matter the trouble surroundin' us
They don't see that it's a lot of us, Everybody move anonymous
Won't take that credit, I know where we get it
Them blessings be comin' from God above
I was doin' all kinda bad
Where the choir at? Tell 'em I need a verse
Hit the pew and tell God he's first, Hit the studio to body a verse
I remember pushin' mama's little white Hyundai with no gas money
I just bought a car, cash money, I ain't even tryna brag on it
I just tell it how it really is, I ain't trippin', they ain't feelin' this
I ain't sayin' I deserve nothin', I'm just tryna talk about the benefits
I've been punchin' in the clock, Tryna keep the kitchen stocked
Man it's a blessin' 'cause we ain't ever had a lot
But all we need is all we got

If I ever took a loss, I learned a lesson
I won't ever think I'm better than the next man
I've been down before the come up, I ain't stressin'
Baby I'm too busy countin' all these blessings, blessings

Count it up, count it up, count it up
Count it up, count it up, count it up
Count it up, count it up, count it up
Blessings

I put my mama in the crib, said, "Stop stressin'"
I put my girl in a brand new diamond necklace
She said she need more of my love and affection
'Cause lately I've been workin' harder than ever
She said, "Baby, you a boss, baby, clear your schedule
Dolla you a boss, let's do somethin' special
Take me on a PJ, we should go to Mexico
I've been down for you, boy since when the money was low"
Anything for my bae 'cause she a blessing
If you woke up this morning it's a blessing

Chorus

I took so many losses, Coulda lost it
Left 'em leakin' like a faucet, Almost cost me
Everything that I got, all of my fam, Part of the plan
I was eatin' fried bologna out of the pan, Y'all don't understand
I was tryna get it, I'm in that studio tryna keep it pushin'
Petty pies, boy I kept 'em cookin', All I needed was the Mary Mary
But the God in me was havin' commentary, woo!
I got angels all around like Anita Baker
Blessings fallin' in line, guess I need a taper
And every loss is a lesson, Tell my haters I confess
Treat 'em like the green bubbles on the iPhone
I probably never read the message

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Deuteronomy 28:1-14, New International Version (NIV)

1 If you fully obey the Lord your God and carefully follow all his commands I give you today, the Lord your God will set you high above all the nations on earth. **2** All these blessings will come on you and accompany you if you obey the Lord your God:

3 You will be blessed in the city and blessed in the country.

4 The fruit of your womb will be blessed, and the crops of your land and the young of your livestock—the calves of your herds and the lambs of your flocks.

5 Your basket and your kneading trough will be blessed.

6 You will be blessed when you come in and blessed when you go out.

7 The Lord will grant that the enemies who rise up against you will be defeated before you. They will come at you from one direction but flee from you in seven.

8 The Lord will send a blessing on your barns and on everything you put your hand to. The Lord your God will bless you in the land he is giving you.

9 The Lord will establish you as his holy people, as he promised you on oath, if you keep the commands of the Lord your God and walk in obedience to him. **10** Then all the peoples on earth will see that you are called by the name of the Lord, and they will fear you. **11** The Lord will grant you abundant prosperity—in the fruit of your womb, the young of your livestock and the crops of your ground—in the land he swore to your ancestors to give you.

12 The Lord will open the heavens, the storehouse of his bounty, to send rain on your land in season and to bless all the work of your hands. You will lend to many nations but will borrow from none. **13** The Lord will make you the head, not the tail. If you pay attention to the commands of the Lord your God that I give you this day and carefully follow them, you will always be at the top, never at the bottom. **14** Do not turn aside from any of the commands I give you today, to the right or to the left, following other gods and serving them.

1. What parts of the song can you relate to?
2. What are some things that you normally consider to be “blessings”?
3. Read Deuteronomy 28:1-6. What are some of the ways that God’s people will be blessed?
4. How would these blessings translate into today’s society? What would they look like?
5. Read Deuteronomy 28:9-11. What are some of the ways that God’s people will be blessed?
6. How would these blessings translate into today’s society? What would they look like?
7. Read Deuteronomy 28:12-14. What are some of the ways that God’s people will be blessed?
8. How would these blessings translate into today’s society? What would they look like?
9. What is the common thread between verses 1, 2, 9, 13, and 14? What does that mean for you?