



The Mystery of Blessing and Cursing

Season 2 Episode 5

INTRODUCTION:

Famous curses over the last 2 or 3 centuries:

- The Curse of the Bambino
 - The inability of the Boston Red Sox to win the World Series after trading Babe Ruth to the Yankees in 1920.
 - Thankfully for the fans of the Red Sox, that curse was broken after over 80 years.
- The Curse of the Hope Diamond
 - A curse followed a large, blue diamond when it was stolen from an idol in India—a curse that foretold bad luck and death not only for the owner of the diamond but for all who touched it.
 - » Dates back to 1642
 - » King Louis XVI lost his head over it.
- The Kennedy Curse
 - A string of tragic deaths to one very famous family.
 - John F. and Robert Kennedy were assassinated. Rosemarie received an unnecessary lobotomy and had to be institutionalized, Michael Kennedy died in a skiing accident and JFK Jr. in a plane crash.

Throughout the Bible we hear of these two mysterious forces called *blessings and curses*.

- They're mysterious because sometimes they come from God. And sometimes they come from man.
- Questions:
 - What sets a blessing in motion? What keeps it in motion?
 - What is a curse? Where does it come from? What causes a curse to happen? Maybe the bigger question is why?
- The Bible tells us Jesus became a curse so that we would no longer live under a curse.

TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 1

Is every blessing and every curse a sovereign act of God's will?

- It's more like a force—such as gravity.
- This force is an invisible, spiritual force that effects the visible and physical realm.
 - Blessings and curses are the result of a spiritual force that gets set into motion by either our actions or words.
- Blessing and cursing was not God's original intent for mankind.
 - Before Adam and Eve sinned in the garden, there were no curses. Only blessings existed.
 - » Curses were set in motion when Adam and Eve sinned.
 - » It's the presence of sin on earth that allows curses to remain—just as it's the presence of God on earth that allows blessings to remain.
 - God told Adam to subdue the earth. (Genesis 1:28)
 - » God created man and woman to bless the earth.
 - » They probably followed God's lead: They spoke the earth into submission. They caused vegetation to grow simply by speaking it into existence.

Even though man chose to invite curses into the world, God instantly, from the moment man sinned, began construction on a new road of redemption and blessing through His son Jesus.

- Jesus would take upon Himself all of the world's sin and become the curse.
 - Then—and only then—was the road finished and could be open to you and I.
 - That road would take over 4000 years to complete.
 - For those who believe in Jesus, it changed the impact of cursing from an eternal consequence to a temporary experience.
 - It changed the impact of blessings from a temporary experience to an eternal reality.
 - It did not, even for believers in Jesus, remove the spiritual law of blessing and cursing.

Blessing and cursing is often set into motion through the words we speak.

- The first specific job God gave man to do was to name every animal that He put before him.

- When Adam named the animals, it was both recognition of man's authority over the animal AND it was a form of blessing.
 - » It was a blessing because the act of speaking and naming the animal unlocked its identity and nature. Adam wasn't just naming the animals for reference; he was blessing them with an identity and a destiny.
- God's original purpose for man and woman: To be fruitful, to multiply and to subdue the earth.
- God tells Adam to work the land in Genesis 2:15.
 - » The Hebrew word avodah can mean both work and worship.
 - » This reaffirms God's original intent for mankind—that even in our work we would be worshipping God by being a blessing to creation.
 - » Scripture says creation is groaning for mankind to reveal himself to it. It yearns for us to return to our original purpose—which is blessing.

After Adam and Eve had sinned, God made them aware of the consequences of that sin.

- Eve would experience pain in childbirth, and Adam would have to toil to produce food from the earth.
 - In the midst of hearing those curses, Adam does something that's pretty extraordinary. He blesses woman by naming her Eve.
 - » The name Eve meant mother of all that is living.
 - » This illuminates an important point. In the midst of curses, there can be blessings.
 - » When Adam named Eve, she hadn't given birth yet.

Blessing and cursing can exist simultaneously.

- In the third chapter of the Book of James, James says that both blessings and curses come from the same tongue.
 - The same tongue that worships God and ushers in the Kingdom of Heaven, also has the ability to curse.
 - » The Hebrews coming out of slavery in Egypt were still walking in the blessings of God—they had Egyptian gold to prove it. Yet, they still cursed the journey with their speech and then suffered as the consequences of those curses followed them in the desert for 40 years.

You could be experiencing the influence of both blessings and curses in your life.

- You have the power to change that!
 - You have the power to reverse the power of the words you've spoken out over yourself.
 - You have the power to reverse the power of words that *other people* have spoken out over you.

TALKING POINTS: Teaching Session 2

Blessing and cursing create a "spiritual spin."

- How you speak about your own intelligence can actually affect critical thinking.
 - Example:

Maybe your mother was real supportive of you as you were growing up. She told you how proud she was of you—how smart you were. This started a positive spin and you began believing that you really were smart. If asked to do something, your first instinct was "I can do it."

Let's say one day in middle school a bully hears you give a wrong answer in class and later at recess calls you stupid. You shrug it off initially, but you can't let it go. Being called stupid is, in and of itself, a word curse. And it has the potential now to start a negative spin. That negative spin will work against the momentum of the positive spin that came from years of your mother's adoration.

Proverbs 26:2 says, Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.

The child did not deserve to be called stupid. But that doesn't tell the whole story about the power of blessing and cursing. If you don't counter the curse immediately with the truth, you've tacitly agreed with it. And when you agree with a curse, it becomes valid. When you learn to recognize a word curse, you can then learn how to break it. The easiest time to break a word curse is right after it's delivered. You break its power by saying and believing the truth.

"I'm not stupid. I have the mind of Christ. The God Who created the Heavens and Earth lives in me, and through Him all things are possible."

Every word we speak has the power to bless or curse.

- It has the power to build and create, or to destroy and dismantle.
- Speak the truth, and continue speaking the truth over yourself until that's all you can hear.
 - When you do that, you immediately stop the negative spin.

CONCLUSION:

It was never God's plan that you and I should live in a world with curses. We were made to be blessed and to be blessing to others. We were made to speak those blessings out—and the results to be life, fruitfulness, abundance, multiplication. That is why you were created.

Yes, the same tongue that can bless God also has the power to curse. But God has given you the ability to choose. You can stop the spin, stop the momentum of curses in your life. You do it by beginning a lifestyle of speaking blessings out over your life. You can change the impact of curses in the life of your family and loved ones by speaking words of blessing, life, encouragement, destiny, truth.

It's not too late to change the spin. It's not too late to break the curses that have been spoken out over you—the invisible spiritual momentum that keeps you from living the life God created you to live. Are you ready to stop that momentum? Let's start right now. Say this right now.

Jesus, I now ask you to forgive me for every idle word I've ever spoken... or that anyone has ever spoken over me that I've chosen to believe. Forgive me for misusing this precious gift you've given me—this power of the tongue. I repent of this and now ask that these curses be broken.

And now Holy Spirit...bear witness to the truth I'm about to speak.

"I'm a blessed person. I have been given by God the ability to be blessed and to be a blessing to others. I have been given by God the power to speak out those blessings in my life, and then see those blessings come to life. Every word that I speak can attract help from Heaven. Every word I speak has the power to stop the effects of curses that have been spoken out over me. Even curses that I unknowingly have spoken out over myself. Jesus, because you willingly took upon yourself the curses of the world—I no longer have to live under the power of those curses.

And so beginning right now, Holy Spirit, help me to recognize every idle word that I speak. Help me to stop the power of that word instantly by believing and speaking the truth. I will believe and speak the truth about myself. I will believe and speak the truth of others. In doing so, my life will change. Every area of my life will improve. Because that's how you created me—to be blessed and to be a blessing to others. Amen.

When you live a lifestyle of speaking out blessings over yourself and others, God will take notice and you will attract the attention of heaven. That's not to say you won't still have trouble. Living a blessed life doesn't mean you're immune from attacks of the enemy. Sometimes those attacks actually confirm that the hand of the Lord is upon you. But even when those attacks come, know that you've been given powerful weapons to fend off those attacks.