

I Peter 3:8-12

Called To Be a Blessing

Welcome back and here we go! Tonight we are going to talk about what it means to be a blessing! Truly, as Ambassadors of Christ, it is our job to exemplify what it means to live as unto Christ! I think each of us have different ideas on how that is carried out but the truth is...

1) We are either a _____ or a _____!

Some people feel like curses. Maybe that's you...

I Peter 3:8-12 Finally, all of you be of one mind, having compassion for one another; love as brothers, be tenderhearted, be courteous; ⁹ not returning evil for evil or reviling for reviling, but on the contrary blessing, knowing that you were called to this, that you may inherit a blessing. ¹⁰ For "He who would love life And see good days, Let him refrain his tongue from evil, And his lips from speaking deceit. ¹¹ Let him turn away from evil and do good; Let him seek peace and pursue it. ¹² For the eyes of the Lord are on the righteous, And His ears are open to their prayers; But the face of the Lord is against those who do evil."

The word of God says, we are called to be a blessing. God has summoned each of us to show up in a manner that enriches others' lives and that can happen in many ways! It starts with us all having the same mind ----- the mind of Christ ----- something we have talked a lot about in Bible Study. But going even further, we are called to extend that thinking out into action, into becoming a blessing.

Ways to be a Blessing: in word, in deed, in thought.

How do you bless those around you? By being kind. Being generous. Being patient. Accepting them. Listening. Forgiving them. Guiding them. Loving Them.

2) When something good happens, I say "_____ blessed me!"

Inherently, we know this to be true. All good gifts come down from heaven, the Father of lights, where "*there is no variation or shadow of turning.*" Yet, usually, these things happen through people. It is God's people and sometimes even God's enemies, who provide for our needs.

===Grocery Joke===

We say, "If you are blessed, God's hand is upon you."

I agree. But God always ----- mostly/usually uses people to be His hands and feet.

Our first promise was with Abraham.

Genesis 12:1-3 Now the Lord had said to Abram: "Get out of your country, From your family And from your father's house, To a land that I will show you. ² I will make you a great nation; I will bless you And make your name great; And you shall be a blessing. ³ I will bless those who bless you, And I will curse him who curses you; And in you all the families of the earth shall be blessed."

Abram was called to be a blessing. What is interesting is God says not only that, but He "*will bless those who bless him.*". Abram would be blessed. I always say that if you bless Face of Grace, I promise you will be blessed. Why? Because I believe in this principle 100%. If you do me dirty, God will repay! But that concept only works if...

3) I _____ become a _____ !

Not only to people I love, but to everyone. How? Well, Jesus said it best in...

Matthew 5:43-47 *You have heard that it was said, 'You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.'*
⁴⁴ But I say to you, love your enemies, bless those who curse you, do good to those who hate you, and pray for those who spitefully use you and persecute you, ⁴⁵ that you may be sons of your Father in heaven; for He makes His sun rise on the evil and on the good, and sends rain on the just and on the unjust. ⁴⁶ For if you love those who love you, what reward have you? Do not even the tax collectors do the same? ⁴⁷ And if you greet your brethren only, what do you do more than others? Do not even the tax collectors do so?

This goes along with **I Peter**. But Peter goes further and says you were called to this. It's what God desires of you, so, by the way, when you give to others --- any kind of blessing --- and they say, "Wow, God did bless me", do you feel bad if they leave you out of the equation? You bless them and then God gets all the credit! You see the problem when you want credit?

4) When you _____ you become the _____ of _____.

People understand that you blessed them, but they also know it is God Himself who provides for them through His people. How wonderful it is to be a blessing.

You are called to be a blessing and you will inherit a blessing.

Let this sink in.....

I Peter 3:10-12

God is against those who do evil.

5) Having _____ and doing _____ are not the same.

If you are doing things or even thinking harmful thoughts about people, that is evil. God is against that. I wanted to start with the bad and end with the promise. Sorry.....Sorry.....

These *verses, 10 & 11*, give instruction and a promise. And then, it says "*pursue peace*".

6) Be at _____ with all people.

Then the next thing ----- is something amazing ----- a pledge, promise.

7) God's _____ are open to our _____.

Do you want God listening? Be a blessing not a curse. God is waiting for us to return to Him with a humble heart. Let's ask for forgiveness and offer a prayer of blessing to those we would not ordinarily pray for. And then let our God bless us openly.....

Matthew 6:3 *But when you do a charitable deed, do not let your left hand know what your right hand is doing.*

Let's pray.