
STRATIGIC SHIFT #12: “Cursing” to “Blessing”

God has blessed America as a nation: We sing “God Bless America”.....

- You may believe in coincidences and that is why it so good.
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I believe:

- That God orders our steps
 - And that the effective fervent prayers of righteous men and women
 - Are heard by a very real and living God
 - Who acts and responds to those prayers.
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As there are blessing, so there are curses.

- You may not believe in curses.
 - Whether you do or don't believe
 - They exist and are very real
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PLEASE OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Matthew 12

What we say can either produce a blessing or curse

- Some of you have been cursed
 - *“Thank you very much I was feeling really good...”*
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We say “God Bless You” when someone sneezes:

- Is that nothing; just a cliques?

We pray over our food before we eat:

- Is that meaningless; just an idol habit?
 - Some of you would be alive if you hadn't prayed a blessing
 - Don't take it personally if I've eaten at your house.
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READ Matthew 12: 33-34

- God looks at our hearts, other see our hearts through our words
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READ Matthew 12: 35-36

- Isn't it exciting that every word we have said is being recorded
- To be played before the judgment seat of God.

Anyone here ever say anything that you've regretted?

- Thank God for His grace and forgiveness

READ Matthew 12: 37

It is no coincidence that when someone hits their thumb they say the most popular name in America: Jesus Christ.

- Why not: “Ah Buddha!” or “Hari Krishna; I hit my thumb!”

When people see a great play in football they say: “Jesus, look at that play!”

- Why not: “Bill Clinton, look at that play!”

Why are they picking someone who has been dead for over 2000 yrs.?

- Because He is the God of the universe
 - Life centers around Jesus Christ
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Is it an accident that people use Biblical terms like “hell” or “damn”?

- Why not “heaven” or “saved”?

Some people are obsessed:

- With asking God to damn this and to damn that
 - Why not ask God to bless this and to bless that?
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Have you noticed that in our society today?

- When something is **GOOD** we say that it’s “**BAD**”?
 - When something is **REALLY GOOD** we say that it’s “**SICK**”
 - When something is **GREAT** we say that it’s “**WICKED**”
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We use expressions like:

- “**You don’t give a damn**”
 - meaning “**you don’t care**”
 - Shouldn’t we be saying “**You don’t give a BLESSING**”?
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- “**We’re going to get in there & give ‘em hell**”
 - meaning “**we’re going to do a great job**”
 - Shouldn’t we be saying “**we’re going to give them HEAVEN**”?
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Isaiah 5:20 Woe to those who call evil good and good evil; who put darkness for light and light for darkness; who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!

WHY? Because out of the heart the mouth speaks...

- It is amazing that people can still eat with their mouths
- That is a miracle in itself

Many of us have experienced blessings

- But you have also experienced cursing.

Some of you have been cursed by your parents

- “Every idol word...” all added up before God

Expressions like:

- “Ah, you’re dumb” **You’ve just been cursed!**
 - “You’ll never amount to anything” **You’ve just been cursed!**
 - “Idiot!” **You’ve just been cursed!**
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You say: I spoke without thinking!”

- That is physically impossible
 - You may not have thought for very long...
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You are responsible for your words

- You chose to speak those words
 - Remember in the 8th grade when you first swore
 - Pride of life creped in...
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Jewish people for thousands of years have been blessing their children

- They speak words of confidence and build them up
 - At Bar-mitzvahs and Bas-mitzvahs
 - They speak blessings over them

It is no wonder that 80% of Pulitzer Prize winners are Jewish

- Because rather than degrading and defaming their children
 - They bless them
 - They tell them “There is nothing that you can not do...”
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PLEASE OPEN YOUR BIBLES TO Genesis 27

Genesis 12 says:

Now the LORD said to Abram... I will **bless you** and make your name great. And **you shall be a blessing**. And **I will bless** those that bless you and curse the one who curses you. And in you shall all families of the earth be blessed.

READ Genesis 27: 1-11

- Jacob and Esau both wanted the blessing from Isaac
- Their parents Isaac and Rebekah each had favorites

Some of you had parents who had favorites.

- And it caused problems that still affect you today

READ Genesis 27: 12-13

- The blessing was so important that Rebekah was willing to have a curse placed upon her life so that Jacob could be blessed
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READ Genesis 27: 14-29

- Isaac gave a blessing to Jacob because Isaac thought that Esau was standing before him.
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READ Genesis 27: 30-33

- The blessing wasn't a little thing.
 - Isaac realized that once he spoke the words he couldn't get them back.
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ESAU RESPONDS:

- **“Hey, No big deal; it doesn't matter.**
 - **A blessing or a curse, who cares!**
 - **At least my brother Jacob was blessed!**
 - **I'm happy for Jacob!**
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READ Genesis 27: 34

- Esau cried out in a loud voice: “PLEASE BLESS ME!”
-

READ Genesis 27: 35-38

- Esau cried out in a loud voice: “PLEASE BLESS ME!”
-

READ Genesis 27: 39-40

- Isaac pronounces the fate for Esau
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READ Genesis 27: 41

- Is the blessing important?
 - Would you KILL someone for the blessing if it wasn't important?
 - Esau was so upset that he was willing to KILL his own brother.
 - I'd say the blessing is pretty important.
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The blessing is so important because it can affect those around us:

Genesis 39:5 So it was from the time he (Potiphar) had made him (Joseph) overseer in his house, and over all he had, that the LORD blessed the Egyptian's house for Joseph's sake (one of Jacob's sons). And the blessing of the LORD was upon all that he had, in the house and in the field.

In Genesis 48, Joseph wanted his father Jacob to bless his 2 children Ephraim and Manasseh before Jacob died.

- Jacob blessed the boys different than how Joseph thought he should
 - Joseph was disappointed.
 - Joseph knew the words spoken in the blessing meant something
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Each time the Apostle Paul wrote a letter he pronounced a blessing.

- Romans 1: 7 *“Grace and peace to you”*
 - 1 Corth 1:3, 2 Corth 1:2, Gal 1:3, Eph 1:2, Phil 1:2, Col 1:2, 1 Thes 1:1, 2 Thes 1:2, 1 Tim 1:2, 2 Tim 1:2, Titus 1:4, Philemon 1:3
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Why didn't Paul just skip the blessing and get to the meat?

- Each time he was speaking a blessing
 - So did Peter in his letters *“Grace and peace be multiplied to you...”*
 - Peter and Paul understood the importance of the blessing.
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WE LIVE IN A WORLD THAT HAS BEEN CURSED.

- Its not hard to see that
- Even the world wonders and asks “why?”

You can receive a curse just by driving your car.

- That is what the hand gestures mean.
- They are imparting something to you.

People have been cursed: Therefore they curse one another.

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO WITH SOMEONE WHO CURSES YOU?

- **Luke 6:28 – Jesus said:** Bless those who curse you and pray for those who spitefully use you.
 - **Bless and curse NOT.**
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WHAT HAPPENS IF YOU CURSE THOSE WHO CURSE YOU?

- **Proverbs 26:2** “Like a flitting sparrow, like a flying swallow, so a curse without cause shall not come”.

I'm not 100% sure, but I believe the NIV renders Proverbs 26:2:

- “I am rubber, you are glue. It bounces off me and sticks to you!”
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GOD IS THE ONLY ONE WHO CAN STOP A CURSE OR A BLESSING

- If man could stop a blessing
- Most of us wouldn't be here today.

WHY DOES GOD BLESS US?

- Because it is in His heart to bless.
 - Deuteronomy 9:4 tells us that it is NOT because of our righteousness but because of His goodness.
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I WILL ALWAYS DESERVE TO GO TO HELL

- 1000 years from now I will deserve to be in hell.
 - For all of the idol words I have spoken, I deserve to be in hell.
 - BUT, by the grace and mercy, I will not be in hell
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SIDE NOTE:

If you want to spend eternity in hell, there are still tickets available.

- Jesus said that broad was the way that leads to destruction and many choose it.
 - Narrow was the path that leads to life and few take it.
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We have brought upon this nation and ourselves a curse

- **Proverbs18:21** Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it shall eat the fruit of it.

Today, it is vogue for women to curse as bad as men.

- As if cursing was ever in vogue!
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READ Deuteronomy 11:26

- We have the option to choose life or death
 - **Even COMMUNION is a cup of blessing or curse** (1 Corth 11:26-32)
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In Deuteronomy 28

- We have the choice of BLESSING or CURSE set before EACH of us

READ PARTS of Deuteronomy 28:1-14

- The blessing of obeying God and His word
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IF YOU DON'T WANT TO OBEYING GOD AND HIS WORD

- We have something else for you:

READ PARTS of Deuteronomy 28:15-68

- The curses of disobeying God and His word
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We have the choice of blessing or curse set before each of us

Some of you have had curses chosen for you

- And you are still cursed today

Some of you have never been released from words spoke over you:

- “Nothing good will ever come to you”
 - “You wouldn’t amount to much”
 - “You’re just like…”
-

One of the most powerful things that we can do is bless each other.

I had to learn to reject words spoken over me in anger or ignorance

- And receive words of Blessing from my Heavenly Father
 - So I would be free to be blessed
 - And to speak words of blessing and stop the generational curses.
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TODAY God wants you to have His blessing

God wants you to be set free from the curse that is on the lives of the people who are hearing the sound of my voice TODAY!

Jesus paid the price with His death, burial, and resurrection so that you could be free TODAY!

- **Galatians 3:13-14:** ¹³ Christ redeemed us from the curse of the Law, having become a curse for us (for it is written, "Cursed is everyone who hangs on a tree"); ¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles (*be to the nations*) in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.
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We need to allow God to do a Strategic Shift Today in our lives

- We need to get **AGGRESSIVE**
 - We need to be willing to **obey God** to get the BLESSING
 - To be willing to **die to our flesh** to get the BLESSING
-

I want to bless you TODAY in the Name of the LORD

- **BLESSINGS:** Health, relationships, marriages, BCF and other churches represented, blessings on our children, over everything you put your hands to, ministries here in this room,
- **RELEASE:** From bondages, curses spoken over you by ignorant people who didn’t realize the damage they were doing.

FATHER, Jesus said that they didn't know what they were doing when they crucified Him.

FORGIVE those who spoke words spoken over our lives that have caused us to live under a curse. INCLUDING OUR OWN WORDS

WORDS SPOKEN OVER US:

- That has produced emptiness and voids and hurts.
 - Free us from the words in the Name and Authority of Jesus Christ
-

God has been speaking to us today.

If you've NEVER:

- Received Jesus as your personal Savior and LORD over your life,

THEN:

- You are living under a curse.
 - I love you too much to not tell you
-

BUT, YOU CAN MAKE THINGS RIGHT TODAY

HOW? BY:

- Stop trusting in your own efforts to please God and begin to trust in what Jesus Christ has already done.
 - Ask God to forgive you for your sins.
 - Invite Jesus to come and live in you.
 - Ask Jesus to take His rightful place as Lord and Savior of your life.
 - Turn away from whatever the Bible says is sin. NOTE: This is only possible after you have made Jesus the Lord of your life.
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The Holy Spirit is here today not to condemn but to save.

- **COME TO THIS ALTAR TODAY!**
-

God is still speaking to us today.

Is there some unfinished business?

- **LORD I want these things broken from my life TODAY!**
 - **I want to shift from cursing to blessing TODAY!**
-

IT IS A BIG DEAL!

- Esau was willing to kill to receive the blessing.
 - God wants to bless and release TODAY!
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COME TO THE ALTAR RIGHT NOW!
