Series: Speak Life (The Power of Blessing)

Series Text: 1st Peter 3:9

September 9, 2018

Message 1:

**Speak Life to Your Family**

*Guests - Handout designed with you in mind - Info and notes especially for you - won’t call or visit -*

*Next Steps*

*Generosity*

*Notes on Handout and in YouVersion App*

1st Peter 3:9 MSG - … bless—that’s your job, to bless. You’ll be a blessing and also get a blessing.

**Intro:** How many of you say, “God bless you!” when someone near you sneezes?

What does that mean? Are you even thinking about what you are saying in that moment?

When you greet someone at church, you often say, “God bless you!” What are you saying - what are you doing when you do that? Does it mean anything more than, “Hi! How’s your week been?”

The word “bless” means 5 things:

1 - To make whole by spoken words -

We often think we need to DO something to make someone whole - medical care, medicine, etc. With a blessing, we can make people whole with the power of what we say!

“God bless you!” actually means, “May God make you whole!”

2 - To ask and to invoke God’s divine favor for your situation, for your circumstance or for your condition. You can change your situation - your circumstance - your condition by speaking a blessing over it!

3 - To wish a person well.

4 - To make you happy and prosperous.

5 - To gladden, to glorify, or to praise. The Bible talks about being anointed with the oil of gladness.

Philippians 4:8 - … Think about things that are excellent and worthy of praise.

We need to train our minds to think on the blessings of life. It’s easy to get down in the dumps and always be thinking of what is going wrong. We need to think about all the good things that God has done for us!

Bad stuff happens to everyone - we can dwell on those things to the point where we forget the good times we have had. We have to train our minds to think on the good things!

You can learn to bless your families and their futures -

You can learn to bless your situations and circumstances -

The Bible even speaks of blessing God! God is awesome and has everything! How does He need our blessing? We’ll talk about that in a couple of weeks - today:

**Big Idea: Speak life and blessings over your family and their future!**

Genesis gives us great examples of how to speak life and blessings over our families and their futures -

Early in Genesis, God called a man named Abraham to follow Him. Abraham became the Friend of God. God had Abraham move away from his family so He could teach him and take him to the place He wanted him to go - When Abraham had his son named Isaac, he sent a servant back to where he came from to find a wife for Isaac - to make the story very short - God revealed to the servant who Isaac’s wife was to be - her name was Rebekah - she agreed and was willing to go with him to marry this man she had never met -

When she left her home and family - they spoke a blessing over her -

Genesis 24:60 - They gave her this blessing as she parted:

 “Our sister, may you become the mother of many millions!

 May your descendants be strong and conquer the cities of their enemies.”

They didn’t know Abraham -

They didn’t know Isaac -

They didn’t know anything about the situation she was marrying into other than what Abraham’s servant had told them in less than a day.

They didn’t know -

Genesis 13:16 - And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted!

The didn’t know -

Genesis 15:5 - Then the Lord took Abram outside and said to him, “Look up into the sky and count the stars if you can. That’s how many descendants you will have!”

They didn’t know that Abraham had this son when he was 100 years old!

They didn’t know that Abraham almost killed his son - Genesis 22 - God tested him …

After God tested and Abraham passed, what did God say?

Genesis 22:16-18 - “This is what the Lord says: Because you have obeyed me and have not withheld even your son, your only son, I swear by my own name that I will certainly bless you. I will multiply your descendants beyond number, like the stars in the sky and the sand on the seashore. Your descendants will conquer the cities of their enemies. And through your descendants all the nations of the earth will be blessed—all because you have obeyed me.”

They didn’t know the plan of God for Abraham and his descendants - but they sensed the direction of God in this situation and they let her go - but they did not let her go without speaking this blessing over her life.

When they spoke this short simple blessing over her life, they were entering into a big plan of God!

When we speak blessings instead of cursing over our family and their future - we are stepping into the plans of God - and we are bringing them into the plans of God!

Rebekah would marry Isaac -

Genesis 24:63-67 - One evening as he was walking and meditating in the fields, he looked up and saw the camels coming. When Rebekah looked up and saw Isaac, she quickly dismounted from her camel. “Who is that man walking through the fields to meet us?” she asked the servant.

 And he replied, “It is my master.” So Rebekah covered her face with her veil. Then the servant told Isaac everything he had done.

And Isaac brought Rebekah into his mother Sarah’s tent, and she became his wife. He loved her deeply, and she was a special comfort to him after the death of his mother.

She would have twin sons named Esau and Jacob -

Isaac knew the power of speaking blessings, and he planned to speak a great blessing over his firstborn son Esau …

Jacob also knew how powerful that blessing could be - so he went to desperate measures to receive that blessing.

> **We not only need to learn to speak blessings - we need to learn to seek blessings!**

Jacob was so desperate for a blessing he was willing to deceive to get it!

Tell story …

Genesis 27:28-29 - “From the dew of heaven and the richness of the earth, may God always give you abundant harvests of grain and bountiful new wine.

 May many nations become your servants, and may they bow down to you. May you be the master over your brothers, and may your mother’s sons bow down to you. All who curse you will be cursed, and all who bless you will be blessed.”

This happened! The blessing happened - it continues to happen today in Jacob’s descendants - Israel -

People in our world today are desperate for blessings - life has become so hard and so difficult for so many people - if we as God’s people would learn how to bless instead of be negative all the time, we would find people to bless and in doing so we would change both their situations and often our situations as well.

People need to be blessed! Who is going to do it if we don’t?

Our families and their futures need to be blessed - who is going to do it if we don’t?

The blessing Isaac spoke over Jacob changed the course of history - the blessings we speak over our families, our children, their futures - has the power to change the course of history!

Esau came in - not happy - Jacob had to run away - but every where he went, God blessed him! For the next 20 years - everything he did was blessed!

> **When we bless our families, we inspire them to seek the blessing of God even more!**

Jacob heads home …

Wrestling with the Angel …

Genesis 32:36-38 - …But Jacob said, “I will not let you go unless you bless me.”

 “What is your name?” the man asked.

 He replied, “Jacob.”

 “Your name will no longer be Jacob,” the man told him. “From now on you will be called Israel, because you have fought with God and with men and have won.”

What happened? His brother who had wanted to murder him, forgave him! Their relationship was restored!

When we get our attitudes and expectations in line with the blessings of God, we will see His blessings in our lives and it will give us an insatiable desire to continue to live under the blessing of God!

When we learn to speak blessings over the lives of our families, they will see those blessings come to pass and it will give them a desire to live under the blessing of God!

Because Jacob received spoken blessings over his life, his circumstances were dramatically changed!

You can learn to speak blessings over your spouse, over your children, over your work situations - and you will see dynamic differences take place!

Because of the Fall … we are reversed. Spiritually, we have been jerked inside out!

Our natural response to everything that happens to us is a fallen response - a broken response - a cursed response.

Adam walked with God personally every day - had lordship over everything in all creation -

But, when he chose to listen to Satan instead of God, he was jerked inside out - kicked out of God’s garden - and had to work hard for everything he got with all of creation fighting against him.

Does anyone know what that’s like? Always fighting for everything you get and you feel like everything is always working against you?

The natural thing for us to do is to get angry, upset, and curse every situation - then we begin to be negative around everyone - even the ones we love - and we start bringing curses instead of blessings on all of our situations.

Begin to train your mind and your mouth to speak blessings instead of curses over your family, your loved ones, your boss, your co-workers, your subordinates, and every situation and circumstance that you face!

Are you living a life that is critical of everything?

* Stupid car!
* Dumb house!
* Do you focus on the weaknesses of your spouse instead of their gifts?
* Do you run down your kids or do you build them up?
* Are you an uplifter at work, or do you bring everyone else down?

Does our world - do those who are around us every day - do they need blessings - or curses?

People today are searching for a blessing - they are searching for something good - they are searching for some hope - they are searching for something positive.

If we as God’s people can’t learn to speak positive blessings into their lives, they will never find the goodness of God!

The end of Jacob’s life -

Jacob ended up with 12 sons and 1 daughter - … story of Joseph …

Joseph had seen the power of the blessing - no doubt Jacob had told them these stories we have shared today.

Genesis 48 - Joseph brought his two sons to their grandfather to receive a blessing from him - Jacob wanted to bless them -

Genesis 48:9 - …And Jacob said, “Bring them closer to me, so I can bless them.”

Grandparents - be a blessing to your grandchildren - speak words of blessing over their lives -

Genesis 48:10 - Jacob was half blind because of his age and could hardly see. So Joseph brought the boys close to him, and Jacob kissed and embraced them.

Genesis 48:15-16 - Then he blessed Joseph and said,

 “May the God before whom my grandfather Abraham and my father, Isaac, walked— the God who has been my shepherd all my life, to this very day, the Angel who has redeemed me from all harm— may he bless these boys. May they preserve my name and the names of Abraham and Isaac. And may their descendants multiply greatly

throughout the earth.”

Genesis 48:20 - So Jacob blessed the boys that day with this blessing: “The people of Israel will use your names when they give a blessing. They will say, ‘May God make you as prosperous as Ephraim and Manasseh.”

I learned to speak blessings over my children.

Sometimes I would write them out … sometimes they would be spontaneous -

The written ones were thoughtful and sometimes elaborate - don’t think you can’t do that - Think about what you want for your spouse -

Think about what you want for your kids - write it out -

Then, read it over their lives -

Be spontaneous - “You’re going to do great on that test today! I have confidence in you!”

“I believe you are going to do great in the game! I believe you have the talent!”

Don’t lie - if they can’t sing, don’t tell them they can sing - but look for their talents - look for their abilities - go through Next Steps with them -

“Look at your gifts! This is where God has gifted you! I bless you to be used in this gift! I bless you to see other people’s lives changed because you are being used in the gifts God has given you!”

Blessings can be as simple as - “I love you - I’m proud of you!”

What did God the Father say about Jesus? “My beloved Son - in whom I am well pleased!”

Every child needs and wants the blessing of the father -

Dads - learn to take the lead in this -

“You are my child - I love you - I’m proud of you - you have what it takes!”

“You are my wife - I love you - you are a great blessing to me! I love the way you cook!”

Bless her with your actions - help her clean the house - cook dinner for her some night - take her out to dinner - date her all over again - tell her how beautiful she is!

Tell your daughter how beautiful she is! In our culture today, our girls need to know from their parents how beautiful they are!

“You’re going to do great at the concert tonight! I believe in you!”

“You did do great tonight! You’ve chosen your friends wisely!”

When they go to school - “May God give you a great day today - may He help you to walk in His ways today - May He help you to be a blessing to your friends today - May Jesus walk with you - may you know that the Holy Spirit is with you - may you make a difference in everyone’s life around you today! May He bless you to be a blessing in the lives of other people today!”

It’s endless -the ways in which we can bless our families and their futures!

“Someday - you are going to make a huge difference in this world! God has great plans for your life!”