Series: Speak Life (The Power of Blessing)

Series Text: 1st Peter 3:9

September 16, 2018

Message 2:

**Speak Life Into Every Situation**

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

*Next Steps*

*Generosity - Missions partner in handout*

*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:** Last week we talked about how - We need to train our minds to think on the blessings of life.

Last week we learned to -

**Speak blessings over our family and their future!**

We looked at great examples in Genesis -

Through those stories we learned:

* **We not only need to learn to speak blessings - we need to learn to seek blessings.**
* **When we bless our families, we inspire them to seek the blessing of God even more!**

Today:

**Big Idea: Speak blessings over your situations and circumstances!**

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.

We know what that’s like, don’t we? 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!

How do you react when the car doesn’t start? Do you bang your hand on the dashboard or the steering wheel and curse?

Does that actually hurt the car - or hurt your hand?

Does that help the car start? What difference does it make?

What about when you’re having trouble with the lawn mower? Kick it and curse? Does that help the mower work? Or does it just cause your toe to hurt for the next three days?

How can we bless our situations instead of cursing them?

Ezekiel 36:1-15 - “Son of man, prophesy to Israel’s mountains. Give them this message: O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Lord! This is what the Sovereign Lord says: Your enemies have taunted you, saying, ‘Aha! Now the ancient heights belong to us!’ Therefore, son of man, give the mountains of Israel this message from the Sovereign Lord: Your enemies have attacked you from all directions, making you the property of many nations and the object of much mocking and slander. Therefore, O mountains of Israel, hear the word of the Sovereign Lord. He speaks to the hills and mountains, ravines and valleys, and to ruined wastes and long-deserted cities that have been destroyed and mocked by the surrounding nations. …

the mountains of Israel will produce heavy crops of fruit for my people—for they will be coming home again soon! See, I care about you, and I will pay attention to you. Your ground will be plowed and your crops planted. I will greatly increase the population of Israel, and the ruined cities will be rebuilt and filled with people. I will increase not only the people, but also your animals. O mountains of Israel, I will bring people to live on you once again. I will make you even more prosperous than you were before. Then you will know that I am the Lord. I will cause my people to walk on you once again, and you will be their territory. You will never again rob them of their children.

“This is what the Sovereign Lord says: The other nations taunt you, saying, ‘Israel is a land that devours its own people and robs them of their children!’ But you will never again devour your people or rob them of their children, says the Sovereign Lord. I will not let you hear those other nations insult you, and you will no longer be mocked by them. You will not be a land that causes its nation to fall, says the Sovereign Lord.”

Israel was experiencing a horrible situation … worse than most of the situations we face - But God told Ezekiel to speak God’s words of blessing over the situation because He wanted to bless the people!

This is what we need to retrain our minds, hearts, and mouths to do - not to hear the negative from others - but to hear the positive from God’s Holy Spirit!

When Ezekiel spoke the blessing - it happened! God blessed!

Here is what happens in some families - a parent says to a child - “How could you be so stupid! That’s the dumbest thing I’ve ever seen! You make me sick - you’re just a dummy - I can’t wait til you grow up and get out of here!”

That’s cursing and not blessing -

What needs to be said is this: “When God gave you to us, He blessed us with a precious gift! You are a great son, you are a beautiful daughter! You’ve got gifts and qualities that no one else on the face of the earth has got! You are a special gift to our family! We all have weaknesses - but son, daughter, you’ve got far more plusses than you have minuses. I bless you, son! I bless you, daughter! I love you and I release the blessings of the Holy Spirit upon you! As you go out today, may you be blessed! When you come home, may you be blessed! When you catch the bus, be blessed! May no harm come upon you! May you not face depression. May you stand out from the crowd instead of just following along with everyone. Be blessed, in the name of Jesus!”

> **Start blessing your situations instead of cursing them!**

Speak blessings over your home and family.

Speak blessings over your work place.

“I bless this workplace with wisdom - I bless my boss with wisdom - I will look for the good to overcome the evil! May this workplace experience sales - so that the employees can be blessed - so that I can give more to expand the kingdom of God.”

Can you bless your checkbook instead of cursing it?

I’m not talking about positive confession to the point where you think you can just speak $1000 into the checking account when you are overdrawn - I’m not talking about just speaking words and believing a Cadillac is going to show up in your driveway -

But I am talking about speaking blessings - looking for the positive instead of the negative - believing by faith that situations and circumstances are going to get better - and speaking with your mouth that hope and that faith - because just bemoaning the fact that things aren’t going so good does nothing for you - does nothing for your attitude - it just makes everyone else around you miserable - and wallowing in self-pity over bad situations doesn’t make bad situations better!

Speak hope! Speak faith! Speak belief - and say to a proverbial mountain - get out of my way - God says He wants to bless me and my situation - so I’m going to talk like that is going to happen!

Ezekiel was told to speak to the mountains, to the hills, to the ravines, to the valleys, to the desolate ruins, to the deserted towns, and to the land! As a result of Ezekiel speaking the positive blessing that God said he wanted to give - he spoke the blessing over the situation and the situation changed! The condition changed!

We could complain about our church -

* We don’t have as many singers as other churches
* We don’t have as many instrumentalists as other churches
* We don’t have the money for all of the technology we would like to have
* We don’t have the money for a number of building improvements we would like to make.

We could constantly be cursing the situation - how is that going to help? Not only will it not help - it does the opposite - it brings down - it brings discouragement - it brings depression - it actually curses the situation and makes it worse -

How do we bless?

* What a great Worship Pastor we have!
* What a great NextGen Pastor we have!
* What a great Executive Pastor we have!
* Great things about happening in these ministries!
* Lives are being changed!
* The singers we have are fantastic - and they are growing and developing in their gifts.
* Those who serve in the tech area are making sacrifices to serve - giving of their time and talent - they are desiring to learn more and be effective at what they do!
* Thank God for the flexibility of those who serve us and the changes they are willing to make to see more lives changed!
* What a great lobby we have - a great place for fellowship -
* What a great coffee bar - those people who serve in there are great! They have great smiles - they are so welcoming and friendly -

“WELL - YOU DON’T HAVE MY FAVORITE DRINK ON THE MENU!” “It’s kind of hot in here … It’s kind of cold in here! The sunshine is too bright through the windows! The music is too loud in the lobby! The tech sometimes doesn’t work in the Kids Check In area!”

You have a choice - every day all day long - are you going to curse situations - look for the weaknesses instead of the blessings? Or are you going to bless!

Thank God for people who come in and serve - greet - check in kids for safety so families can feel good!

Thank God for sunshine! Thank God for a great place to fellowship!

What great small group leaders we have! What a great opportunity we have in Next Steps for people to find out their gifts and getting connected serving and making a difference!

See - this is a curse - “We only had a handful of people in Next Steps last week - how discouraging - I think it’s useless - we should probably just quit!”

This is a blessing - “Do you know that in the YEARS we’ve been having Growth Track and Next Steps now that there have only been TWO SUNDAYS when people weren’t there to seek out their gifts and connections to make a difference! I believe it is making a difference! I believe people are growing in gifts and ministries! I believe this opportunity is going to continue to make a difference!”

You make think this is not blessing and cursing - you may think this is just a matter of words and attitudes -

Words and attitudes have power to make a difference - and the difference is cursing or blessing!

Proverbs 18:20-21 - Wise words satisfy like a good meal; the right words bring satisfaction.

The tongue can bring death or life; those who love to talk will reap the consequences.

James 3:2-10 - …if we could control our tongues, we would be perfect and could also control ourselves in every other way.

We can make a large horse go wherever we want by means of a small bit in its mouth. And a small rudder makes a huge ship turn wherever the pilot chooses to go, even though the winds are strong. In the same way, the tongue is a small thing that makes grand speeches.

But a tiny spark can set a great forest on fire. And among all the parts of the body, the tongue is a flame of fire. It is a whole world of wickedness, corrupting your entire body. It can set your whole life on fire, for it is set on fire by hell itself.

People can tame all kinds of animals, birds, reptiles, and fish, but no one can tame the tongue. It is restless and evil, full of deadly poison. Sometimes it praises our Lord and Father, and sometimes it curses those who have been made in the image of God. And so blessing and cursing come pouring out of the same mouth. Surely, my brothers and sisters, this is not right!

Apply all this to your situation - to your home - to your workplace - to any situation or circumstance you find yourself in -

* Are you only seeing the negative and speaking about the negative? Then you are cursing the situation instead of blessing it.

See the positive - speak the positive - and

**> If you can’t see any positive - speak what you hope for!**

Pray - ask God what He wants for the situation - then begin to speak that you believe God is going to do that thing in that place!

1st Peter 3:9-12 - Don’t repay evil for evil. Don’t retaliate with insults when people insult you. Instead, pay them back with a blessing. That is what God has called you to do, and he will grant you his blessing. For the Scriptures say,

“If you want to enjoy life and see many happy days,

keep your tongue from speaking evil and your lips from telling lies.

Turn away from evil and do good. Search for peace, and work to maintain it. The eyes of the Lord watch over those who do right,

and his ears are open to their prayers.

Matthew 5:44-45 - But I say, love your enemies! Pray for those who persecute you! In that way, you will be acting as true children of your Father in heaven.

**Challenge - Write down a condition, circumstance or situation that you want to see change - that you want to see blessed - Ask God what He wants to do - listen for Him to speak - then write down the blessing that you believe God wants to see in that situation.**

**\*\* Emily - in the handout don’t leave any blanks here - just print this in full - at the bottom of the notes page on the handout -**

Stop cursing, criticizing, nagging, and finding fault if you want your life to take a positive turn!

I know the world is bad! I know politics is dirty! I know people are still struggling with finances. I know crime is awful and there are diseases that the doctors can’t cure! I know the world is in horrible shape -

But I know something else - MY GOD LIVES AND MY GOD REIGNS! The power of God’s Word is not diminished! God is still God and His Word is still true and has the power to change every situation and every circumstance!

This may sound crazy - but some of you need to stand up in your home and say, “I bless you home! I bless this living room! I bless this house to be a house of encouragement, not discouragement! I bless this house to be a place of life and not death!

“I bless my kitchen that the food would be awesome and healthy! I bless my bedroom that my love with my wife would be sweet, and giving, and not selfish! I bless my kids rooms to be filled with the presence of God! I bless this place that here my home would be a sanctuary - that the presence of God would rise in my home! I speak the blessing of safety - that no harm, physically, emotionally, or spiritually would touch this house!

“I bless my kids with wisdom, righteousness, good choices - great friends!

“I speak that this dwelling will be a place of encouragement and blessing for everyone who comes in here! That everyone who even drives by my house wills sense the presence of God!”

Some of you - in your workplaces and in your homes - it’s like going into the Lion’s Den - Do you know what you need to do? Bless the lions!

Daniel was punished for praying - thrown into a den of lions - some of you are having a hard time with this because like Daniel you feel like you’ve done everything right and bad stuff is still happening -

Bless the lions!

The lions got lockjaw when Daniel was thrown in there! God was with him - even in your most difficult situation - you don’t have to curse it - because God is there with you!

Some people would rather be in the Lion’s Den with God - that outside the Lion’s Den without Him!

Shadrach, Meshach & Abednego …. “Come out!”

Once the lion’s are de-toothed - put some teeth into your blessing - put some action behind your words -

Romans 12:14-21 - Bless those who persecute you. Don’t curse them; pray that God will bless them. Be happy with those who are happy, and weep with those who weep. Live in harmony with each other. Don’t be too proud to enjoy the company of ordinary people. And don’t think you know it all!

Never pay back evil with more evil. Do things in such a way that everyone can see you are honorable. Do all that you can to live in peace with everyone.

Dear friends, never take revenge. Leave that to the righteous anger of God. For the Scriptures say,

“I will take revenge; I will pay them back,” says the Lord.

Instead, “If your enemies are hungry, feed them. If they are thirsty, give them something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals of shame on their heads.”

Don’t let evil conquer you, but conquer evil by doing good.

**Invitation - Remember Connection Card - video**

**Remember Next Steps - Remember to Give …**

**Blessing -**