

Message preached on Wednesday, June 11, 2025

## 14 Bless them which persecute you: bless, and curse not.

I know, I know...I always go to vs. 1 and vs. 2 to start these passage...but it seems to me some of these identification marks of a Christian are more needful in remembering vs. 1 and vs. 2.

THINK ABOUT IT: Some things (hospitality, our motivational gifts, abhorring evil...) many can do without LAYING DOWN YOUR FLESH... But verse 14? Yikes!

I will say this...for most (if not all) of us...laying down our flesh in this area, is BRUTAL!

"Persecute" - those that come at you, hostility, harass, trouble or mistreat.

**GREEK:** everyone now and always everyone now.

**NOTE:** We don't get to pick and choose.

**QUESTION:** Well, what are we suppose to do?

"Bless them" – eulogeo (eulogy) – to say good and positive things.

**THINK OF** a eulogy...when good words are spoken in remembrance of the person who passed away.

**QUESTION:** What are we NOT suppose to do?

"Curse" – to verbally curse (or speak bad about them).

How many of us would agree that we HAVE TO lay down our flesh to do this! Not even a question! **ONE MORE FOCUS in verse one:** "by the mercies of God" or "because of the mercies of God".

**BELOVED:** If God spoke over us everything that we DESERVED...everything we have ever DONE...there is NOT one of us in this place that would be OKAY. Yet, He has blessed us.

Sometimes, that is why we have such a hard time fulfilling our gifts and callings...because we are aware of our downfalls...surely God sees it too.

**BELOVED:** Sure He sees, it but He has cast it away from you...not holding it against you...and speaking blessing over you.

<u>Proverbs 18:21</u> – "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."

**BELOVED:** When you speak...you are speaking either blessings or curses over situation and people (including yourself)...

<u>James 3:10</u> – "Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be."

**YOU SAY:** Well, I don't like them...it doesn't bother me if their life calls apart...NOW we are dealing with an absence of the greatest thing a Christian can have...LOVE!

(1 Corinthians 13, Galatians 5:6)

Some would ask...is this the only place the Bible talks about this? The answer would be a resounding NOPE!

## **Ephesians 4:29-32**

- 29 **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth**, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it **may minister grace unto the hearers**.
- 30 And *grieve not the holy Spirit of God*, whereby ye are sealed unto the day of redemption.
- Let all bitterness, and wrath, and anger, and clamour, and *evil speaking, be put away from you, with all malice*:
- And be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God for Christ's sake hath forgiven you.

### Luke 6:37,38

- 37 **Judge not, and ye shall not be judged: condemn not, and ye shall not be condemned:** forgive, and ye shall be forgiven:
- 38 *Give, and it shall be given unto you*, good measure, pressed down, and shaken together, and running over, shall men give into your bosom. For with the same measure that ye mete withal it shall be measured to you again.

### 1 Peter 2:1-3

- Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,
- 2 As newborn babes, desire the sincere milk of the word, that ye may grow thereby:
- 3 If so be ve have tasted that the Lord is gracious.

**NOTICE #1:** If you are struggling with these things...you are still new born babies. **NOTICE #2:** If you have tasted of the Lords goodness...lay aside these things.

Titus 3:2 – "To speak evil of no man, to be no brawlers, but gentle, shewing all meekness unto all men."

<u>Proverbs 16:28</u> **(AMP)** – "A perverse man sows strife, and a whisperer separates close friends." <u>Proverbs 17:9</u> – "He that covereth a transgression seeketh love; but he that repeateth a matter separateth very friends."

# Why is this so important?

<u>James 3:2</u> – "For in many things we offend all. If any man offend not in word, the same is a perfect man, and able also to bridle the whole body."

"Perfect" – complete, fully grown (James 1:4). This is what we are after.

Romans 12:19 – "...vengeance is mine, thus sayeth the Lord, I will repay..." God spoke this a couple times in the O.T.

## Genesis 12:2-3

- And I will make of thee a great nation, and I will bless thee, and make thy name great; and thou shalt be a blessing:
- And I will bless them that bless thee, and curse him that curseth thee: and in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.

**GOD has made** it fairly simple...if someone is cursing you...He will take care of it. It is NOT your job! *You don't need to fight your own battles.* 

**BELOVED:** It is when we try to fight our own battles...or clear our own way...that we get in trouble! We make a mess out of stuff.

# Look at a few people in the Bible:

Joseph and his brothers...

Did his brothers persecute him? Absolutely. What did he say against them? Nothing. Did Potiphar persecute him? Sure. What did he say against him? Nothing. Did God take care of Joseph? Yes!

## Jacob and Esau...

Jacob carried the blessing...the birthright. Esau carried Isaac's stuff. Did Jacob talk bad about Esau? Nope! Who prospered?

David and his brothers...

They talked bad about him (1 Samuel 17). He did NOT talk bad about them. Who became KING...who prospered...

**BELOVED:** If we want to become the men and women God created us to be...we MUST lay our flesh down and stop talking bad about others.

## A Few Questions:

- 1.) Have you ever had a time where someone rose against you...and you didn't speak evil of them and it ended up in your favor?
- 2.) Can you think of a time where you DID speak some evil...and it became a mess?