

This year our theme is “Shine,” and we just finished an awesome Family VBS called “Shine Like the Son”! Jesus is the light and when we receive him as our savior, he fills our lives with light! Jesus said, “You are the light of the world!” We are to let the light of Jesus in us shine into this dark world.

In the Spring we did a series called “Speak Light” and talked about how we can let the Holy Spirit use our mouths and words to speak light and life to those around us.

I would love it if we always Spoke light, but sometimes our words block the light of Jesus and if we are not careful, we will find ourselves “Throwing Shade” on others. Our words or actions can be like opening an umbrella and blocking the light of Jesus, in us, from shining on others.

## Two Types of Curses Seen in the New Testament

**1) The Curse of the Law Galatians 3:10 For all who rely on the works of the law are under a curse, as it is written: “Cursed is everyone who does not continue to do everything written in the Book of the Law.”**

**Galatians 3:13-14 Christ redeemed us from the curse of the law by becoming a curse for us, for it is written: “Cursed is everyone who is hung on a pole.” 14 He redeemed us in order that the blessing given to Abraham might come to the Gentiles through Christ Jesus, so that by faith we might receive the promise of the Spirit. Say... “Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law.”**

**2) Maledictions – Definition : 1) calling down of evil on someone; a curse. 2) evil talk about someone; 3) Slander James 3:8-11 (Speaking of the human tongue) It is a restless evil, full of deadly poison. 9 With the tongue we praise our Lord and Father, and with it we curse human beings, who have been made in God’s likeness. 10 Out of the same mouth come praise and cursing. My brothers and sisters, this should not be.**

*Are our Words really that powerful?*

In **Proverbs 18:21** Solomon writes that **“Life and Death are in the power of the tongue.”**

Your Words can be LIFE GIVING or you can SPEAK DEATH.

## The Source of Curses and Maledictions

**James 3:13-18 Who is wise and understanding among you? Let them show it by their good life, by deeds done in the humility that comes from wisdom. 14 But if you harbor bitter envy and selfish ambition in your hearts, do not boast about it or deny the truth.**

**15 Such “wisdom” does not come down from heaven but is earthly, unspiritual, demonic.**

**16 For where you have envy and selfish ambition, there you find disorder and every evil practice.**

## Three Common Maledictions

### 1) Harsh Words

- *You will never amount to anything.*      *I wish you could be like your friend, \_\_\_\_\_.*
- *Do I have to do everything for you?*      *I hope you marry someone who will take care of you.*
- *You are an accident waiting to happen!*      *What have you messed up this time?*

In the South, people think they can get away with saying anything as long as they proceed what they say with or follow what they say with **“Bless their heart.”**

### 2) Silence

We think that just simply being present communicates love and a blessing even if we don’t say it. BUT... In relationships, the major thing that silence communicates is confusion!

- Couples eating together but not talking to one another.
- Parents at El Sombreros both reading the paper as child sat alone.
- Parents will often ignore children as though they weren't there.
- Couples will often co-exist in the same house but never interact with each other.

**The lack of Spoken Blessings, Encouragement, and Affirmations will have two results:**

A. Withdrawal and acceptance of failure as a way of life.

*“Words have an awesome impact. The impressions made by a father’s voice can set in motion an entire trend of life.” Gordon MacDonald*

B. An over achiever or workaholic. Always trying to please the parents or get the blessing.

- Some children feel like praise only come as a reward for doing good, a home run, good grades, or other such achievements. *“If I try a little harder then maybe I will get my parents blessing.”*
- A husband or wife may wonder why their spouse spends so much time helping others but ignores their responsibility at home. Appreciation, thankfulness, may not be being spoken in their house, whereas the recipient of the help is very grateful, speaking praise and adoration.

**Remember, a lack of negative words does not translate into a blessing!** Good words are necessary!

**3) Self Cursing**

- *I’m stupid. I can’t do that. I doubt I can.*
- *Nobody likes me.* (With that consistent attitude this person is eventually right, no one likes to constantly hear that, and no one will want to be around them.)

**EX:** Average person talks to himself or herself about **50,000 times a day. 80% is negative.**  
*I’m not good enough. I’m not smart enough. People don’t like me*

Remember, all you have to do is AGREE with what the Word of God says about you.

**How to Break Curses Spoken Over Your Life**

• **Avoid the Malediction Cycle**

Do not return maledictions for maledictions. Lashing back *“I will get even with you!”*

**1 Peter 2:15 For it is God’s will that by doing good you should silence the ignorant talk of foolish people. 1 Peter 2:17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor. 18 Slaves, (employees) in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters, not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh. 20...But if you suffer for doing good and you endure it, this is commendable before God.**

**21 To this you were called, because Christ suffered for you, leaving you an example, that you should follow in his steps.** (In His Steps, Charles Sheldon, WWJD)

**22 “He committed no sin, and no deceit was found in his mouth.” 23 When they hurled their insults at him, he did not retaliate; when he suffered, he made no threats. Instead, he entrusted himself to him who judges justly.** Jesus didn’t play that malediction game.

• **Bless When You Are Cursed**

Paul’s example: **1 Corinthians 4:11-12 To this very hour we go hungry and thirsty, we are in rags, we are brutally treated, we are homeless. 12 We work hard with our own hands. When we are cursed, we bless; when we are persecuted, we endure it;**

Peter said: **1 Peter 3:8-9 Finally, all of you, be like-minded, be sympathetic, love one another, be compassionate and humble. 9 Do not repay evil with evil or insult with insult. On the contrary, repay evil with blessing, because to this you were called so that you may inherit a blessing.**

Jesus said: **Luke 6:27-28 “But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, 28 bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.**

**Illustration:** Someone shouting a curse at a Christ follower with God standing behind him. When the believer kneels to pray for the one cursing him, the curser is suddenly face to face with God.

- **Overcome Evil With Good**

**Romans 12:14 Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse.**

**Romans 12:16 Live in harmony with one another. Do not be proud, but be willing to associate with people of low position. Do not be conceited.**

**Romans 12:17-19 Do not repay anyone evil for evil. Be careful to do what is right in the eyes of everyone. 18 If it is possible, as far as it depends on you, live at peace with everyone.**

**19 Do not take revenge, my dear friends, but leave room for God’s wrath, for it is written: “It is mine to avenge; I will repay,” says the Lord. (One of the reasons we need to pray for them!)**

**20 On the contrary: “If your enemy is hungry, feed him; if he is thirsty, give him something to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head.” (Proverbs 25:21–22. In Egypt, there had been a custom to carry a pan of burning coals on one’s head as a sign of repentance.)**

**Romans 12:21 Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.**

*St. Augustine “Evil is the absence of good just as darkness is the absence of light.” Turn up the light.*

- **Practice Second Mile Christianity**

**Matthew 5:38-45 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Eye for eye, and tooth for tooth.’ 39 But I tell you, do not resist an evil person. If anyone slaps you on the right cheek, turn to them the other cheek also. 40 And if anyone wants to sue you and take your shirt, hand over your coat as well.**

**41 If anyone forces you to go one mile, go with them two miles. 42 Give to the one who asks you, and do not turn away from the one who wants to borrow from you.**

**43 “You have heard that it was said, ‘Love your neighbor and hate your enemy.’**

**44 But I tell you, love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you, 45 that you may be children of your Father in heaven. He causes his sun to rise on the evil and the good, and sends rain on the righteous and the unrighteous.**

- Children of your Father – (Vs 44 – 45) Blessing your enemies is a sign of maturity. If you bless you will be mature sons, partners with the Father, positioned beside the Father. You will be seeing things from the Father’s point of view.

1<sup>st</sup> Mile – The Curse is at work.

2<sup>nd</sup> Mile - The Blessing is at work. Redemption is found in the second mile.

When we fight back, we lose the opportunity to bring redemption into that relationship.

**Let’s Do the Math:**  $-1 + (-1) = -2$  A cycle of cursing has begun.  
 $-1 + (+1) = 0$  This is 1<sup>st</sup> mile Christianity.  
 $-1 + (+2) = 1$  This is 2<sup>nd</sup> mile Christianity. Redemption has begun.

**Bless When You Are Cursed, Overcome Evil with Good, and Practice Second Mile Christianity**

- Altar call:**
- 1) Ask Jesus to heal you from any maledictions spoken over you.
  - 2) Repent of speaking curses.
  - 3) Pray for the ability to bless the one cursing you, ask the Lord to show you how.