

Two verses that can change the world! Two verses in Luke Chapter 6 are revolutionary!
These two verses will change everything.

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.

Love, Do Good, Bless, and Pray.

- 1) Love your enemies, 2) Do good to those who hate you,
- 3) Bless those who curse you, and 4) Pray for those who mistreat you.

I challenge you to join the “Luke 6 Revolution”. It all starts with you and me as we make a personal decision to allow the Holy Spirit to help us do what Jesus told all of us to do.

NEXT STEP: I will memorize and meditate on Luke 6:27-28 this week.

Spoken Maledictions Def: 1) a curse; 2) The utterance of a curse; 3) slander.

James 3:8-12 ...but no human being can tame the 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. 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring? 12 My brothers and sisters, can a fig tree bear olives, or a grapevine bear figs? Neither can a salt spring produce fresh water.

Our Words Produce Life or Death

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.

Proverbs 18:21 Words kill, words give life; they're either poison or fruit-you choose. (The Message)

The Source of Curses and Maledictions

James 3:13-16 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 Salty Waters

James 3:11 11 Can both fresh water and salt water flow from the same spring?

Don’t get locked into your fairy tale curses that you have always read about.

“I curse you to sleep forever.” “You are cursed to be a frog until true love’s first kiss.”

“May your children be slaves and poor for all generations to come.”

The curses that you and I will have to deal with in our lives will more than likely come from three sources.

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?
- You can’t do anything right!

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 blessings, friendship, or approval. BUT... In relationships, the major thing that silence communicates is **confusion!**

Examples:

- Couples eating together but not talking to one another or both on their phones. Couples will often co-exist in the same house but never interact with each other.
- Parents will often ignore children as though they weren't there.
- People will often see someone in public they know and speak to them but never introduce their spouse or children who are standing there with them. (Or your friends and Pastor.)

3) Self-Cursing

- I'm stupid. I can't do that. I doubt I can.
- “Nobody likes me.” (With that consistent attitude, they are eventually right. No one likes to constantly hear that, and no one will want to be around them.)

EX: The average person talks to himself or herself about **50,000 times a day. 80% is negative.**

Love Your Enemies, Do Good to Those Drinking Haterade Toward You, When Cursed...

- **Bless When You are Cursed**

Luke 6:28 Bless those who curse you.

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

In Scripture, a blessing becomes a blessing only when it's spoken. (*It's more than encouraging words.*) When Blessing, we speak God's favor, protection, mercy, and grace over a person.

We think of what would be God's highest and best for them, and we speak it in faith. As we invoke God's name (engage, put into action, the life that flows from the name of God), He (God) is present in the blessing to impart blessings to them.

Numbers 6:27 “So they will put my name on the Israelites, and I will bless them.”

When God blesses someone, He makes things go well for them. A blessing is a good gift from God and is often times undeserved.

Paul said in **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;

What about the curses that we speak over ourselves?

- STOP! AGREE with what the Word of God says about you. Speak that. Bless yourself with the Word of God. / Speak the “Who You Are In Christ Verses.” Take it like daily medicine.

NEXT STEP: I will stop speaking curses on myself and agree with what God's Word says about me.

- **When Cursed 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.

- ...that you may be children of your Father in heaven. – (Vs. 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. Then, you will say, “Father, how can we help them today? How can we bless them today, Father?”
- 1st Mile – The Curse is at work.
2nd 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 1st mile Christianity.
 -1+ (+2) = 1 This is 2nd mile Christianity. Redemption has begun.

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

Darkness is only the absence of light. Evil is the absence of good; just as darkness is the absence of light. **Ex:** Light over darkness. You can’t turn up the darkness; you can only turn up the light.

“The only thing necessary for evil to triumph is for good men to do nothing.” Edmond Burk

- **When Cursed, Remember You Are Called to Blessings Not Curses**

A curse won’t work on you.

Proverbs 26:2

Like a fluttering sparrow or a darting swallow, an undeserved curse does not come to rest.

Peter said in 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.**

NEXT STEP: I will speak at least one blessing over someone who is cursing me.

- **When Cursed, Trust God to Make Things Right**

1 Peter 2:15-23 For it is God’s will that **by doing good** you should **silence the ignorant talk of foolish people.**

16 Live as free people, but do not use your freedom as a cover-up for evil; live as God’s slaves.

17 Show proper respect to everyone, love the family of believers, fear God, honor the emperor.

18 Slaves, in reverent fear of God submit yourselves to your masters (your boss), not only to those who are good and considerate, but also to those who are harsh.

19 For it is commendable if someone bears up under the pain of unjust suffering because they are conscious of God. 20 But how is it to your credit if you receive a beating for doing wrong and endure it? 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. 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.

1 Peter 2:21-23 The Message (MSG) This is the kind of life you've been invited into, the kind of life Christ lived.

He suffered everything that came his way so you would know that it could be done, and also know how to do it, step-by-step.

He never did one thing wrong, Not once said anything amiss.

They called him every name in the book and he said nothing back.

He suffered in silence, **content to let God set things right.**

Altar Call:

- Father God, we trust you to make things right.
- We repent of speaking curses upon others or ourselves.
- Lord, we pray for the ability to bless the one cursing us. We ask you, Lord, to show us how.