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Series: Pursuit of Happiness

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BLESS OTHERS

Hello. This is the fourth, and final, sermon in this series about the word blessed. We will talk about blessing other people.

As Christians who belong to Jesus, we can be a blessing to others. In Genesis 12:2, God spoke to Abraham. God told Abraham, *"I will make you into a great nation and I will bless you; I will make your name great, and you will be a blessing."* Abraham became a blessing to many, many others! And they were a blessing to the world. Now, we are descendants of Abraham through Jesus Christ.

As we live with Christ, we are a blessing to other people. The Bible teaches us that we can be a blessing to others. Do not be proud, do not be arrogant, do not be annoying to others. Do not cause trouble for other people. We should be a blessing to others. Follow God's truth. Be sincere. Others may mock you for your faith in Jesus. Our lives should always reflect Him.

Proverbs 20:7 says, *"The righteous man leads a blameless life; blessed are his children after him."* When a father shows integrity in his life, his children will look at him, and see it and follow his example. They will desire to follow the Lord, also. As a result, they will be blessed, too. If a father does not follow the Lord, how will his children desire to follow the Lord and experience God's blessings?

We need to be a blessing to our children. Live righteous with integrity before the Lord. The Bible teaches again and again to love one another. Many verses encourage us to love our neighbors. Bless other people. You should bless enemies, too! We should be a blessing to people we may not like. This is what Jesus teaches. We should love other sinners, too. Our enemies and other sinners may be sinning against God. But don't forget they are people with whom God wants us to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ, so they can be connected with Jesus and with God. Through the Scriptures, they can be convicted of their sins, and understand God's true plan.

Now we will watch Luke 6:27-36 from the ASL Bible:

"But I tell you who hear me: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you. If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your

tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back. Do to others as you would have them do to you.

"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back. Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked. Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful."

I'd like to review some of these verses with you. Jesus said, *"Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you."* Even when our enemies persecute us, we should still bless them. This is what God commands us to do. Bless them. Love them. Let them see Jesus through you. Don't get upset with them.

Jesus challenges us, *"If someone strikes you on one cheek, turn to him the other also. If someone takes your cloak, do not stop him from taking your tunic. Give to everyone who asks you, and if anyone takes what belongs to you, do not demand it back."* Be a blessing to others. We can show them godly character in how we react. Luke 6:31 says, *"Do to others as you would have them do to you."* This is a very popular verse. We need to treat others as we expect others to treat us. If we curse others, we can expect others to curse us. If you treat others with kindness, you'll probably get kindness in return. Of course, they may not always treat us as we expect. Yet, we should treat others as Jesus wants us to. Take care of them. If we curse others, we should not be surprised when they curse us.

Luke 6:32-35a says, *"If you love those who love you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' love those who love them. And if you do good to those who are good to you, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' do that. And if you lend to those from whom you expect repayment, what credit is that to you? Even 'sinners' lend to 'sinners,' expecting to be repaid in full. But love your enemies, do good to them, and lend to them without expecting to get anything back."* I want to emphasize Luke 6:35b, *"Then your reward will be great, and you will be sons of the Most High, because he is kind to the ungrateful and wicked."*

God wants us to take care of others, whether they are good or bad. God still cares for them. They are people, just like us. We are ALL sinners before God. We all need Jesus Christ to forgive our sins. We can have new life with Him. We need God. We can have a relationship with Him through Jesus Christ. Have mercy on those who are not Christians. Pray for them to have a relationship with Jesus. This is how we should treat them regardless of what they do to us. They may see our faith in Jesus Christ. God may use this to change their hearts and lives and bring them into a relationship with Jesus. This needs to be our hope and prayer for others. Don't treat others differently than you treat Christians. Share your food with them. Be kind to them.

Another verse I'd like to emphasize is Romans 12:14. It says, *"Bless those who persecute you; bless and do not curse."* We need to bless our enemies and other sinners. Love them as Christ loves them. Jesus loves us and has mercy on all of us.

So the bottom line is this – we should be a blessing to everyone. We are a blessing to others with the hope that they will see Jesus Christ. We want them to have what we have – a relationship with Jesus. No matter what happens, do not curse others. Ask God to forgive you. Ask God to give you strength and courage to forgive others, too. Try to get along with others.

Let's review the four sermons in this series and what we have learned. In the first sermon, you can be truly happy when you have a relationship with Jesus Christ. He gives us the hope of eternal life. In the second sermon, we learned that when we seek His righteousness and follow Him and walk with Him, we experience His blessings in our lives. In the third sermon, we learned to praise and bless God, no matter what happens. In any situation, we can always praise God because we have hope in Him. In this final sermon, we are encouraged to go and bless other people.

God bless you! I'm going to get some rest now. Take care.



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