

**SERMON:** Bless and Don't Curse

August 4, 2019

**SERIES:** Love Your Enemies

**SPEAKER:** Pastor Akin

**THE GOAL:** The primary goal of a small group at Grace is to develop a Christian community where Jesus is experienced through the gospel.

**ACCOUNTABILITY QUESTIONS:** Use these questions to explore how God is at work in our families, communities, workplaces, and church.

1. Where have you seen God at work in your life this week?
2. What temptations have you been facing this week? How is God delivering you?
3. How have you experienced God's grace this week?
4. In what ways are you growing in your love for God?
5. In what ways are you growing in your love for others?
6. Have you started or stopped something this week just because you love Jesus?

**SCRIPTURE:** Romans 12:14; Luke 10:25-37.

**SERMON OUTLINE:** I. Cursed by the Law. II. Blessed by Christ. III. Bless and Don't Curse

**REVIEW:** Use these questions to better understand and apply the passage/sermon.

**Observation:** as a group talk through and summarize the passage. Think through Who, What, Where, When, How, Why questions together.

**Interpretation:** answer these questions together:

1. What does this passage teach us about God?
2. What does this passage teach us about us (mankind)?
3. What does this passage teach us about salvation/grace?
4. How does this passage point to Christ?

**Application:** answer these questions together:

1. How does this passage convict you? Encourage you? Inspire you?
2. What specific truth do you see about God (his grace? love? holiness?) and how would your life be different if you really believed it?
3. By God's grace, what commitments do you need to make this week? Or, what do you need to start obeying/believing?

**GO DEEPER:** Use these questions to go deeper into the passage, minds, and hearts.

1. Read Luke 10:25-28. Why do you think Jesus told the lawyer that if he obeyed the law he would go to heaven? What should his response have been to this answer from Jesus?
2. Read Galatians 3:10-14 and 2 Cor. 4:17. The gospel shows us three realities: 1) we deserve cursing 2) we have received blessing from Christ 3) we will receive an eternal glory from God. How do these truths help you move toward blessing your enemies rather than cursing them?
3. Jesus told the lawyer to "go and do likewise." Why is this impossible without Christ? How is it possible with Christ?
4. As you think about a specific "enemy" in your life which of these ways of blessing can you put into practice this week? Be specific. A. Pray for them B. Seek reconciliation C. Share the gospel D. Practice hospitality. D. Join a group.
5. Are there any ways that you have been "cursing" your enemy that you need to confess. How can you start blessing them instead?

Prayer: Praise God that he has taken your cursing and given you his blessing. Confess areas where you have been cursing an enemy. Ask God to show you how to bless your enemy.