

Series: At The Cross



Message Title: #1 Turning the Curse Into A Blessing

Message & Scripture Highlights:

Have a few people read the following scriptures:

Deuteronomy 23:5

"... the Lord your God turned the curse into a blessing for you because the Lord your God has loved you."

Galatians 3:13-14

Christ has redeemed us from the curse of the law, by becoming a curse for us for it is written, "Cursed *is* everyone who hangs on a tree",¹⁴ that the blessing of Abraham might come upon the Gentiles in Christ Jesus, that we might receive the promise of the Spirit through faith.

Discussion Part 1:

There are two key words in the above scriptures: curse and blessing. Share your own experience of when you came to Christ and what it was that you understood Jesus had made you free from. If your full understanding of the Gospel was that Jesus set you free from sin, when did it happen? Seeing that Jesus set you free from the curse, and for the blessing, when would it be activated in your life?

S. Marshall thoughts:

We sing a hymn called Amazing Grace. When you study out Galatians 3 and John 3:14-16 it begins to dawn on you the unfathomable grace of God. If God would give us His only begotten Son to die on a cruel cross and become a curse for us - oh my! - then it is not just a privilege to receive the blessing He has purchased for us, but a responsibility. You honor God when you humble yourself and receive Christ's blessing.

Have someone read:

John 3:14-16

And as Moses lifted up the serpent in the wilderness, even so must the Son of Man be lifted up,

¹⁵ that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

¹⁶ For God so loved the world that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have everlasting life.

Deuteronomy 21:23

"Cursed is he who hangs on the tree."

Numbers 21:8

Then the Lord said to Moses, "Make a fiery serpent [of bronze] and set it on a pole; and everyone who is bitten will live when he looks at it."

2 Corinthians 5:21

He made Christ who knew no sin to [judicially] be sin on our behalf, so that we might be made the righteousness of God in Him [by His gracious lovingkindness].

Discussion Part 2:

Discuss the above scriptures and the foreshadowing of Christ on the cross when Moses was instructed to hang the bronze snake on a pole. When Jesus said, "As Moses lifted up the serpent" and then said "so must He be lifted up", was it only the pole He was comparing to the cross? Or was Jesus even comparing Himself as the Son of Man with the serpent?

S. Marshall thoughts:

Jesus could not have dealt with our sin and sickness, with our cursed reality without Himself being made a curse and made sin. If Jesus were to hang on the cross in His righteousness He could have never legally taken our place, dealt with our sin, and redeemed us back from death. The price my dear friend is just AMAZING grace, and unending love beyond degree.

Life Application:

The cross is a place of unprecedented victory. Everyday be reminded of Jesus victory and prayerfully bring everything in your life that is under the curse, and lay it down at the cross. It could be fear or sickness; it could be hate or bitterness. Lay it down at His cross. In its place, receive everything of the blessing: His peace, power, love and joy.

Now Pray The Word:

Get someone (or a few people) to lead out in prayer based on the Truth talked about. Pray according to the above scriptures:

"Lord thank you for redeeming us from the curse. You intentionally took all of our sin and iniquity to the cross, taking our place, you made it so we can have all the benefits of being a child of God. In You Lord we are the righteousness of God and therefore joint heirs with You. (Continue to pray for one another using the authority Jesus has afforded you in His Name).