

Curse Breaker 1

From Dust to Heaven.

(preached 6/4/23)

In this new sermon series we're going to discover that Jesus was and is a curse breaker. To more fully appreciate and rejoice over that, we need start by:

- Understanding what a curse is.
- Seeing what sort of power they have over humanity and the earth itself.
- How Jesus not only broke them, but REVERSED and REPLACED them with blessing.
- Our APPLICATION of this series should be 1) being set free of curses, and 2) believing in the blessings that God has given, and allowing said blessings to have power and influence over us.

WHAT IS A CURSE/CURSING? The first thing we need to do is expand—big time—our understand of what cursing really is beyond just saying the “f” word.

Let's take some baby steps to help us:

- Saying the “f” word by itself is NOT cursing.
- Directing it at a person, place, thing:—“f you!” IS.

The translation of the word has several facets:

- “To make smaller, reduce.”
- “To hold in contempt, make despicable, despise.”

Stubbing your pinky toe and letting loose with bad language is one thing, **but a true curse is directed. Shot forth like a bullet.**

It has a target: at a person, event, organization, or place and is meant to belittle, reduce, hinder, or corrupt it.

WEAKER/SMALLER. When a curse is directed at another human being it seeks to tear them down and make them weaker. Imagine attempting to chop a tree down with an ax: each swing and hit reduces the tree until it eventually falls.

HINDER/SLOW. When a curse is hurled at someone it's meant to hinder them, slow them down in a bad way. Imagine walking barefoot and someone else throws Legos and thumbtacks right in front of us.

CORRUPTION. When a curse is spoken to another, it also has a corrupting influence: imagine a contagiously sick person coughing all over you...ON PURPOSE. They want to make you sick.

Which is worse and by “worse” I mean: having greater negative power over their lives?

- Calling someone the “f” word?
- Saying something like “rot in Hades!” or “you’ll never succeed!” or “you’ll always be stupid!”

A true curse not only reduces us, but attempts to take away even the opportunity for something better.

A true curse affects our present and future, attempting to lock us into a predetermined path that we cannot escape from no matter what we do or how hard we try.

How about this one: *“we’re all gonna die someday.”*

CAN YOU REMEMBER THE FIRST TIME SOMEONE SAID THAT AND YOU REALIZED IT WAS TRUE? Weren’t we told this was/is just one of life’s facts

that we can’t escape from? No matter how well we eat, what vitamins we take, or how much we exercise sure enough: we’re going to get older and eventually pass. When it comes to death, we’re walking in a canyon where the walls go up miles on each side which means the path we’re on is set.

AUTHORITY FIGURE. Let’s bring this to the next level: *a curse is more effective when spoken by someone with authority & influence in our lives.*

Let’s take the same curse spoken by 2 different people: *“you’ll never amount to anything.”*

- If a total stranger in the grocery store says this to us, we’ll probably think they forgot to take their meds and we’ll move on.
- If our dad or mom says it, we’ll be devastated...even if we’re adults.

CONFRONTATION WITH DAD. I was a grown man in my 30’s when my dad & I got into it over the phone over something to do with the tree farm, something I’d neglected and had to be cleaned up. He was confronting me over it and things got heated between us. In frustration he said to me: *“if you’d hired yourself to manage the farm, would you pay yourself?!”*

TEARS! I was a man in my 30’s, married, and with a kid...and burst into tears. Why?

Because it was my dad who said that to me. I would still have been offended if someone else had asked the same question, but the fact that it was my dad carried a lot more power over my heart and mind.

Now imagine if a major Biblical figure, chosen and anointed by God Himself, speaks a curse...that would have major ramifications.

Imagine, if you will, that God Himself speaks one...WOW.

We're going to go over some of these in this sermon series and please remember: the title of this sermon series is Curse BREAKER.

[Gen 3:17-19 ESV] 17 And to Adam he said, "Because you have listened to the voice of your wife and have eaten of the tree of which I commanded you, 'You shall not eat of it,' cursed is the ground because of you; in pain you shall eat of it all the days of your life; 18 thorns and thistles it shall bring forth for you; and you shall eat the plants of the field. 19 By the sweat of your face you shall eat bread, till you return to the ground, for out of it you were taken; for you are dust, and to dust you shall return."

There's a lot to unpack here!

3rd DEFINITION. I waited this long to tell you there's another meaning to the word curse I didn't include a few minutes ago, which means to BIND or LINK negative words spoken to a person, place or thing.

Remember that the word “bind” and “bondage” (slavery) are synonyms.

“Bind” is a legal term used in many documents to this day—“*you are hereby bound to the terms of this contract/agreement/loan*” you just signed. The mortgage on your house, your car loan, etc. all contain language binding you to the bank not only promising to pay them what's owed, but *binding you to consequences should you fail*: foreclosure and repossession.

A curse weaves, glues, and attaches itself to us and determines our destiny.

It locks us onto a course, a destination, from which we cannot escape.

After Adam ate the FF, the Lord **curses the GROUND**—which is planet earth. Please consider what the Lord says in these verses I underlined and connect the dots: **the Lord formed US from the earth.**

The Ash tree is dying as you all well know, because it's been cursed by an insect known as the Emerald Ash Borer. 20+ years ago Becky and I were buying a dining room table and couldn't decide between Oak and Ash. My dad, a former forester, recommended Oak because of said beetle. He told us that they could and likely would transfer from Ash firewood we brought into the house, and eat our table to pieces...so we bought Oak.

GOD CURSED THE EARTH, BUT WE'RE MADE FROM THE EARTH...thus we inherited the same death.

Verse 17 says "in pain you shall eat of it" and pain translates to "toil, hardship, sorrow." It's the exact same word God uses when He says that childbearing for women will be painful.

Thorns and pricker bushes are another consequence—along with bearing fruits and vegetables that we can eat, the earth will also produce plants that will rip and tear...be hostile to humanity.

Doesn't the earth produce a bunch of stuff that's bad for us? There are many poisonous plants, berries, etc. that will cause anything from an irritating rash to death. Most every mom I know tends to put the needs of her kids above her own and would never do anything to harm them. If that's the litmus test, then nature is not a very good "mother" at all!

The finality of this curse is death: from the dust we were formed and to it (the grave) we will return. We respect and obey "to the dust you shall return" to this very day by burying our dead in the ground.

What we really need is a Curse Breaker: Someone more powerful than us and the curse itself to reverse death and bring life!

That Man is Christ Jesus!

The famous **Crown of Thorns** He wore at His crucifixion was a symbol of Him breaking this curse.

- Thorns and prickles was MY destiny and yours.
- Them ripping and tearing at our flesh was our cross to bear.
- Them growing to choke out the food we're trying to grow and eat was supposed to be our problem...and Jesus made it HIS problem.

RESULT OF REBELLION. The curse was brought about because humankind sinned against God, rebelled against Him. It was a consequence of our actions. Here's our problem: after Adam & Eve, humankind continued to sin against God and as long as we kept doing that, we get thorns and thistles.

CURSE VS. JESUS. Thus when the COT was placed upon the head of Christ, the curse came face to face with the holy and righteous Son of God Who had never committed sin, even once.

A curse depends and feeds on trespass and transgression! It will wither and die without it!

Thus when the thorns and thistles touched the head of Jesus, they found nothing to bind themselves to.

- They were unable to grow roots inside of Him nor determine His destiny.
- They could not stop, delay, corrupt, diminish, or delay Him in any way.
- When Jesus cried out "it is finished!" and gave up His Spirit, the curse that God had spoken 4000 years before died with Him.

In this body you and I are going to get older and eventually pass, yes, and before Christ *death was allowed to write that as the final chapter in our destiny.* Back then, the curse held the keys to death and hell and made sure the doors to those places was wide open for each and every one of us. And that when the time came we would be shoved through them and said doors would slam shut and lock behind us, forever.

But then Jesus:

[Rev 1:12-18 ESV] 12 Then I turned to see the voice that was speaking to me, and on turning I saw seven golden lampstands, 13 and in the midst of the lampstands one like a son of man, clothed with a long robe and with a golden sash around his chest. 14 The hairs of his head were white, like white wool, like snow. His eyes were like a flame of fire, 15 his feet were like burnished bronze, refined in a furnace, and his voice was like the roar of many waters. 16 In his right hand he held seven stars, from his mouth came a sharp two-edged sword, and his face was like the sun shining in full strength. 17 When I saw him, I fell at his feet as though dead. But he laid his right hand on me, saying, "**Fear not**, I am the first and the last, 18 and the living one. I died, and behold **I am alive** forevermore, and **I have the keys of Death and Hades.**

HE SAVED US. When you and I received Christ as our Savior, He Saved us. I know...deep revelation, LOL!!! Here's how He Saved us: ***He transferred the curse from us to Himself.*** As I said a moment ago, said curse could find no foothold within Him and it withered and died with Him on the Cross!

In that glorious, beautiful, wonder-filled moment **JESUS TOOK OVER WRITING IN BOOK OF OUR DESTINY!** Curse was the former author and its final chapter for you me was to be shoved through the doors of death and hell, and then to slam those doors behind us!

But Jesus triumphed over both! He REWROTE our destiny! He is our Author and Finisher! He slammed the doors of hell & death shut so that we could NOT enter therein, then opened the doors to Heaven's Kingdom and invited us in!

[Isa 22:22 ESV] 22 And I will place on his shoulder the key of the house of David. He shall open, and none shall shut; and he shall shut, and none shall open.

The House of David is the New Jerusalem, the Holy and eternal city, waiting for us in Heaven.

If you want to continue saying that we're all going to pass someday, fine...but please tell yourself and others ***the rest of the story*** which is the most important part. The part that Jesus rewrote: ***that you will be resurrected into a new body and live forever with Christ in the House of David!***

Look how thoroughly Jesus replaced this curse with a blessing:

[1Co 15:19-22 ESV] 19 If in Christ we have hope in this life only, we are of all people most to be pitied. 20 But in fact Christ has been raised from the dead, the firstfruits of those who have fallen asleep. 21 For as by a man came death, by a man has come also the resurrection of the dead. 22 For as in Adam all die, so also in Christ shall all be made alive.

THIS BODY. Adam was made from the dust of the earth, and the earth was cursed with death: resulting in thorns, pain, sorrow, and prickers. This body is made from that same stuff and we inherited it from Adam.

HOW THE NEW ONE? Then we were born again in Jesus so, in that moment, we'll inherit a new immortal life. How? If this body is made from cursed earth, then how shall we be revived and live forever?

[1Co 15:35-37, 40, 42-43 ESV] 35 But someone will ask, "How are the dead raised? With what kind of body do they come?" 36 You foolish person! What you sow does not come to life unless it dies. 37 And what you sow is not the body that is to be, but a bare kernel, perhaps of wheat or of some other grain. ... 40 There are heavenly bodies and earthly bodies, but the glory of the heavenly is of one kind, and the glory of the earthly is of another. ... 42 So is it with

the resurrection of the dead. What is sown is perishable; what is raised is imperishable. 43 It is sown in dishonor; it is raised in glory. It is sown in weakness; it is raised in power.

I love video games, as you well know. I especially like the games where my character gets a sword to fight with. What's most fun is when I find better and more effective swords to fight with.

- I start out with a rusty sword made of bronze, which isn't very effective.
- Then I find one made of iron which is much better.
- Then I get one made of steel, which is superior and does much more damage.
- Then (depending on the game) I get one made from some mysterious ore that fell from the sky which is better than all of them, lasts forever, and does amazing damage to evil!

The body we're living in now is made from cursed earth and is like the rusty bronze sword that's dull, breaks easily, and doesn't do much damage.

The body we're getting is made from "matter" that was never cursed or corrupted.

EARTH CURSED, NOT HEAVEN. Hold on: when Adam ate, God pronounced this curse upon all of PHYSICAL creation. But not Heaven. God's Kingdom of Heaven, including the city we'll all live in called the New Jerusalem, remains eternal and untouched by the corruption of death and Hell. This is why Jesus taught us to pray: "on earth as it is in Heaven." He came to break the curse!!!

This body will die and that's good news for us, because when the trumpet eventually sounds and the Lord descends from heaven with a shout, we will be raised up and reformed in a body that's made of the stuff of heaven and not earth.

[1Co 15:47-49 ESV] 47 The first man was from the earth, a man of dust; the second man is from heaven. 48 As was the man of dust, so also are those who are of the dust, and as is the man of heaven, so also are those who are of heaven. 49 Just as we have borne the image of the man of dust, we shall also bear the image of the man of heaven.

I love that last line! Jesus is the Author of our book of destiny!

- Death isn't the end, eternal life is the end that has no end!!!
- We bear HIS image now and nothing can change that!
- The curse no longer binds us!!!
- ***Blessing is now bound to us, forever and ever!!!***

A blessing written and spoken by the most powerful Being: God Himself!

[1Co 15:50-55 ESV] 50 I tell you this, brothers: flesh and blood cannot inherit the kingdom of God, nor does the perishable inherit the imperishable. 51 Behold! I tell you a mystery. We shall not all sleep, but we shall all be changed, 52 in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye, at the last trumpet. For the trumpet will sound, and the **dead will be raised imperishable**, and we shall be changed. 53 For this perishable body **must put on the imperishable**, and this mortal body must **put on immortality**. 54 When the perishable puts on the imperishable, and the mortal puts on immortality, then shall come to pass the saying that is written: **"Death is swallowed up in victory."** 55 **"O death, where is your victory? O death, where is your sting?"**

Jesus is a curse breaker!

Death is not our author. It doesn't determine our present or future. We're not under its feet! It's not weaved into to us nor are we bound to it.

We are bound to Jesus. He is weaved into us. Death is under His feet and no longer has dominion over Him! He is our Author and has already decided our future!

The door to everlasting life and His Kingdom are wide open! When our time comes, we will be escorted through that door and live there forever and ever!