

I Am Blessed, Not Cursed Pt 3 – “Be the Blessing”

Why are you Blessed?

Big Idea: God blessed us so we would be the Blessing.

Life... For Humans... Is hard...

“Choose your hard” Statements.

“Marriage is hard. Divorce is hard. Choose your hard.

Obesity is hard. Being fit is hard. Choose your hard.

Being in debt is hard. Being financially disciplined is hard. Choose your hard.

People aren't typically aren't making 300 different mistakes,
they are more likely making the same mistake 300 times.

To Be the Blessing:

1. Requires hard work.

1 Corinthians 15:10 NLT – But whatever I am now, it is all because God poured out his special favor on me—and not without results. For I have worked harder than any of the other apostles; yet it was not I but God who was working through me by his grace.

“I thank God for His many blessings, but you should have seen the field when He had it all to himself!”

75 Hard Challenge: Primary goal | To develop physical and mental toughness.

5 things:

1. Followed a strict nutrition plan
2. Completed at least 2, hour long workouts every day, one of which had to be outside.
3. I drank a gallon of water, every day.
4. Read 10 pages of the bible or a nonfiction book every day.
5. Try to make someone's day every day. A random act of kindness. A gesture of generosity, or thoughtfulness.

1. I am not invincible, I have limits. This may seem obvious, but it's a lesson not valued by the young on the front half of their lives.

2. I am capable, I can go well past my perceived limits. That's a lesson lost on the old at the back half of their lives... "We don't stop playing because we get old, we get old because we stop playing..."

Focus on what I can do, not what I can't...

I Chose to do hard things to find a way to deal with the hard things that chose me.

Sometimes... People don't choose their hard...

Acts 28:1-6

Now when they had escaped, they then found out that the island was called Malta. ² And the natives^[a] showed us unusual kindness; for they kindled a fire and made us all welcome, because of the rain that was falling and because of the cold. ³ But when Paul had gathered a bundle of sticks and laid *them* on the fire, a viper came out because of the heat, and fastened on his hand. ⁴ So when the natives saw the creature hanging from his hand, they said to one another, "No doubt this man is a murderer, whom, though he has escaped the sea, yet justice does not allow to live." ⁵ But he shook off the creature into the fire and suffered no harm. ⁶ However, they were expecting that he would swell up or suddenly fall down dead. But after they had looked for a long time and saw no harm come to him, they changed their minds...

Crossroads: Who's report will we believe? Am I cursed, or am I blessed?

2. You must choose to believe.

2 Corinthians 4:13 GNT – The scripture says, "I spoke because I believed." In the same spirit of faith, we also speak because we believe.

Paul Chose to see himself as blessed. He then became the blessing.

Luke 6:20-23 NIV

20 Looking at his disciples, he said: "Blessed are you who are poor, for yours is the kingdom of God. 21 Blessed are you who hunger now, for you will be satisfied. Blessed are you who weep now, for you will laugh. 22 Blessed are you when people hate you, when they exclude you and insult you and reject your name as evil, because of the Son of Man. 23 "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy, because great is your reward in heaven.

And we can't always choose our hard... But we can choose the degree to which it affects us, and in what way we respond.

3. You must bless others even when it's hard.

1 Peter 3:9 NIV – 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.

How has God blessed you?

Outdoing one another in honor and generosity.

“When everyone has a servant’s heart, even the servants get served...

“Thy kingdom come on earth as it is in Heaven” ...

It’s hard to disciple young people... It’s hard to watch young people struggle in their faith, identity, and character... Choose your hard!

It’s hard to lead a couples Small Group... It’s hard that 50% of first, 65% of second, and 75% of third marriages end in divorce... Choose your hard!

It’s hard to pray for your nation every day, to invite people to church, to share your story... It’s hard watching America become a “Post Christian Society”... Choose your hard!