

ROMANS 12:14

MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

Big Idea: The Gospel empowers believers to do what is naturally IMPOSSIBLE: bless those who persecute them.

INTRODUCTION

There are commands in Scripture that seem difficult: Be generous. Tell the truth. Forgive. Then there are commands that seem impossible. Romans 12:14 is one of them. God doesn't merely tell us not to retaliate. He commands us to bless the very people who make our lives harder. Humanly speaking, this is a mission impossible.

MESSAGE

Expect Opposition

- Why do you think Paul assumes Christians will face persecution instead of telling them how to avoid it?
- What forms of persecution or opposition are believers most likely to face in our culture today?
- How did Jesus prepare His followers for opposition?

Extend Blessing

- When someone opposes or mistreats you, what is your first instinct?
- What does it actually mean to "bless" someone who has hurt you?
- What is one practical way you could bless a difficult person this week?

Entrust Justice

- How is forgiveness different from saying that sin doesn't matter?
- How can you actively entrust your hurts to God this week?
- What would change if you believed God is better at justice than you are?

APPLICATION

- How does Jesus' response on the cross motivate you to obey this command?
- What would it look like for our church to become known as people who bless instead of curse?
- This week, who is one person you can intentionally pray for, speak kindly to, or serve even if they have opposed or hurt you?