

THE MOUTH Lesson 1 The Allegory Of A Powerful Tool

- **Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof.** Proverbs 18:21
- **But I say unto you, That every idle word that men shall speak, they shall give account thereof in the day of judgment.** Matthew 12:36
- **We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.** James 3:2 NIV

These three verses alone warrant an in-depth study of the human mouth, its power, its potential, its stewardship, and its dangers. Tools can be used to create or destroy. There are even times when destruction is good and creation is evil. This lesson will look at numerous allegories the Bible uses to describe the creative and destructive force of our mouths.

A SHIP'S RUDDER

- **Behold also the ships, which though they be so great, and are driven of fierce winds, yet are they turned about with a very small helm,** James 3:4

Our mouths are to be used to steer our lives in the right direction, regardless of any wind of opposition or trouble blowing against us.

A BIT AND BRIDLE

- **Behold, we put bits in the horses' mouths, that they may obey us; and we turn about their whole body.** James 3:3

Bits both steer and restrain horses. Our mouths should both steer and restrain our lives. Prayer will help us restrain ourselves and steer us into the will of God.

A FLAME

- **Wherefore thus saith the LORD God of hosts, Because ye speak this word, behold, I will make my words in thy mouth fire, and this people wood, and it shall devour them.** Jeremiah 5:14
- **There went up a smoke out of his nostrils, and fire out of his mouth and devoured: coals were kindled by it.** 2 Samuel 22:9, Ps. 18:8

- **And the tongue is a fire, a world of iniquity: so is the tongue among our members, that it defileth the whole body, and setteth on fire the course of nature; and it is set on fire of hell.**
James 3:6

Our mouths are a flamethrower. The question to be asked is, “What are we burning with it?” Will we use our mouths to burn sin and wickedness up, do we use it to burn our brother or sister in Christ, do we use it to set people on fire for God, or are we burning down our own lives?

VENOMOUS

- **Their throat is an open sepulchre; with their tongues they have used deceit; the poison of asps is under their lips:**
Romans 3:13

Wicked speech is likened unto venom. Some venom paralyzes its victim while other venom necrotizes the victim. Venom is never good.

A THRESHING SLEDGE

- **Behold, I will make thee a new sharp threshing instrument (*sledge*) having teeth (*swords*): thou shalt thresh the mountains, and beat them small, and shalt make the hills as chaff.**
Isaiah 41:15

The threshing sledge (sled) is a massive instrument pulled behind cattle to thresh acres of crops, separating the good from the bad. Our mouths are a supernatural tool given to crush the mountains of sin and waste in our lives.

A SWORD

- **And he hath made my mouth like a sharp sword; in the shadow of his hand he hath hid me, and made me a polished shaft; in his quiver hath he hid me;**
Isaiah 49:2
- **Repent; or else I will come unto thee quickly, and will fight against them with the sword of my mouth.**
Revelation 2:16

Swords can be used defensively or offensively. They can be used to intimidate and warn, or they can be used as a farm tool. They can also kill and maim the innocent. A sword can cut a gangrenous growth out or cut a head off. We must be highly skilled with the sword of our mouths.

A SCOURGE

- **Thou shalt be hid from the scourge (*whip*) of the tongue: neither shalt thou be afraid of destruction when it cometh.** **Job 5:21**

A whip can be used to keep lions back or it can be used to punish and even torture. Whips require a tremendous amount of skill to be useful.

A DOOR

- **Set a watch, O LORD, before my mouth; keep the door of my lips.** **Psalms 141:3**

The mouth has a door. We should know when to open it and when to close it. The mouth itself can open and close the doors of life. We should be knowledgeable in that area as well.

A GARDEN

- **A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.** **Proverbs 18:20**
- **By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name.** **Hebrews 13:15**

Our mouths are gardens, producing whatever we choose. The only problem with a garden is that fruit is never an overnight process. The fruit of the mouth takes patience.

A SNARE

- **You have been trapped by what you said, ensnared by the words of your mouth.** **Proverbs 6:2 NIV**

Our mouths can trap us in bad situations and commitments, or they can bind us to our own word and make us men and women of integrity. The choice is ours.

A WELL OF LIFE

- **The mouth of the righteous man is a well of life: but violence covereth the mouth of the wicked.** **Proverbs 10:11**

A well can water and refresh people, even saving someone from death. However, drawing water out of a well takes work. Let's hope the well hasn't been poisoned.

A ROD

- **In the mouth of the foolish is a rod of pride: but the lips of the wise shall preserve them.**
Proverbs 14:3
- **But with righteousness shall he judge the poor, and reprove with equity for the meek of the earth: and he shall smite the earth with the rod of his mouth, and with the breath of his lips shall he slay the wicked.**
Isaiah 11:4

The mouth is likened unto a rod used for leading, ordering, and correcting. The mouth is used to call the shots and give orders. Foolish people do it arrogantly.

A DEEP PIT

- **The mouth of strange women is a deep pit: he that is abhorred of the LORD shall fall therein.**
Proverbs 22:14

A pit can be used to hunt and trap game for food, or it can be used to catch innocent life. Let us judge our mouths and make sure people don't fall into what we're saying to their own death.

A READY PEN

- **My heart is overflowing with a good theme; I recite my composition concerning the King; My tongue is the pen of a ready writer.**
Psalms 45:1 NKJV

Many people today are all too ready to speak, but what do they have to say? Our tongues should be eager to speak concerning our King. Our tongue is a pen. What are we eager to write with it? We should be more than a carnal echo chamber for lies and sin.

May God help us glorify Him with the use of our mouths!

THE MOUTH Lesson 2 The Sins Of The Mouth

- **For the sin of their mouth and the words of their lips let them even be taken in their pride: and for cursing and lying which they speak.**

Psalm 59:12

This lesson will look at the many ways we can sin against God and mankind with our mouths.

- **A good man out of the good treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is good; and an evil man out of the evil treasure of his heart bringeth forth that which is evil: for of the abundance of the heart his mouth speaketh.**

Luke 6:45

Every heart contains treasures. Our mouths will reflect these treasures, good or evil.

- **We all stumble in many ways. Anyone who is never at fault in what they say is perfect, able to keep their whole body in check.**

James 3:2 NIV

Jesus taught that there are evil treasures hidden in the heart of men. When these treasures make it to the surface, they come out of our mouths. James encourages us by stating that we are always going to be dealing with our mouths. We will always have to deal with our mouths because we will always have to deal with our hearts. The heart and the mouth are spiritually connected.

If we can learn what “mouth sin” sounds like, we can be successful in diagnosing our own heart’s sinful issues and work towards addressing those issues before they manifest outwardly.

LYING

This “mouth sin” is so powerful, it is forbidden in the Ten Commandments: **Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor (Exodus 20:16)**. Lying is a signature characteristic of satan and his demons.

- **And he said, I will go out, and be a lying spirit in the mouth of all his prophets. And the LORD said, Thou shalt entice (*deceive*) him, and thou shalt also prevail: go out, and do even so.**

2 Chronicles 18:21

- **... When he speaketh a lie, he speaketh of his own: for he is a liar, and the father of it.**

John 8:44c

- **Remove from me the way of lying; and grant me thy law graciously.**
Psalm 119:29
- **The desire of a man is his kindness; and a poor man is better than a liar.**
Proverbs 19:22
- **A wicked doer giveth heed to false lips; and a liar giveth ear to a naughty tongue.**
Proverbs 17:4
- **Lying lips are abomination to the LORD; but they that deal truly are his delight.**
Proverbs 12:22

Scriptures: **Psalm 119:164; Proverbs 6:17, 13:5, 17:7, 21:6**

GUILE

Guile is more subtle than outright lying. Guile can be defined as *sharing only the truths that favor you*. The Greek word for guile, *dolos*, refers to a decoy. Decoys are convincing, but deceptive. Decoys can be passed off as authentic to the untrained individual and so can guile.

- **Keep thy tongue from evil, and thy lips from speaking guile.**
Psalm 34:13
- **Wherefore laying aside all malice, and all guile, and hypocrisies, and envies, and all evil speakings,**
1 Peter 2:1
- **For he that will love life, and see good days, let him refrain his tongue from evil, and his lips that they speak no guile:**
1 Peter 3:10

GOSSIP

Gossip simply means *to repeat a matter*. Gossip is when a fact is repeated, but with the wrong motive and heart. For this reason, it is often difficult to convince a gossip of their need to repent. Their argument will always be “I’m not lying. It really happened.”

- **Thou shalt not go up and down as a talebearer among thy people: neither shalt thou stand against the blood of thy neighbour: I am the LORD.**
Leviticus 19:16
- **Without wood a fire goes out; without a gossip a quarrel dies down.**
Proverbs 26:20 NIV

Gossip is strife fuel.

- **Rumors are dainty morsels that sink deep into one's heart.**

Proverbs 26:22 NLT

Gossip will sink into your heart and poison you against people. Don't listen to gossip and certainly don't spread it.

- **And besides they learn to be idle, wandering about from house to house, and not only idle but also gossips and busybodies, saying things which they ought not.**

1 Timothy 5:13 NKJV

Idleness and gossip are learned traits. We must unlearn them.

SLANDER

Slander is defined as *a falsehood spread to ruin one's reputation*. The Hebrew indicates a *whispering defamation spread stealthily*. Today, slander is hardly ever done privately. Slander is different from gossip in that slander is totally false while gossip is a true fact.

- **And they brought up an evil report (*slander*) of the land which they had searched unto the children of Israel, . . .**

Numbers 13:32a

Slander isn't limited to people. Israel slandered the Promise Land. Their slander caused them to die in the wilderness.

- **For I have heard the slander of many: fear was on every side: while they took counsel together against me, they devised to take away my life.**

Psalm 31:13

- **For I heard the defaming (*slander*) of many, fear on every side . . .**

Jeremiah 20:10a

Slander produces fear in people. The venomous lies of the enemy carry with them a very powerful paralyzing effect. Do not loan your mouth to demons.

Scriptures: **Numbers 14:36-37; Proverbs 10:18; Jeremiah 6:28**

CURSING

The cursing of the Bible is not the same as American cursing or *cussin' and swearin'*. The cursing of the Bible refers to the declaration of words meant to bring about judgment or evil upon a person. It is often tied to the practice of swearing or binding oneself to an oath, i.e., to swear or vow upon penalty of a curse (**Numbers 30:2; Mark 14:71; Acts 23:21**).

- **Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.**

James 3:10

BACK BITING

Backbiting is malicious talk about someone not present. It is a secret slander.

- **The north wind driveth away rain: so doth an angry countenance a backbiting tongue.**
Proverbs 25:23

FILTHY COMMUNICATION

- **But now ye also put off all these; anger, wrath, malice, blasphemy, filthy communication out of your mouth.**
Colossians 3:8

Foul speaking, low and obscene speech, dishonorable speech, and shameful speech. This word includes vulgarity and crass speech. This is the American *cussin'* and *swearin'*.

CORRUPT COMMUNICATION

- **Let no corrupt (rotten, corrupted, putrefied) communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers.**
Ephesians 4:29

According to this passage, words that pull down and put down the hearer are corrupt words.

COARSE JESTING

- **Nor should there be obscenity (*filthiness*), foolish talk (*moron + logos*) or coarse joking (*facetiousness, low jesting*), which are out of place, but rather **thanksgiving**.**
Ephesians 5:4 NIV

This passage covers several types of mouth sins: obscenities, moronic speech, sarcasm, and facetiousness. These are out of place in the Christian's vocabulary.

Don't have conversations you'll regret in heaven. Strive to have excellent speech and a holy conversation!

THE MOUTH Lesson 3 The Proper Use Of The Mouth

- **But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**

Matthew 12:36-37 NIV

Words are not meant to be empty or useless. Our words are meant to accomplish something for the Kingdom of God. For all of the sins of the mouth we looked at in the last lesson, we will see all of the proper uses for our mouths in this lesson. Our words will condemn us, or they will acquit us. They will loose us, or they will bind us up. Let us look at the proper use of our mouths.

COMMUNICATION

Our mouths, through the expression of speech, are how we communicate in life. With our mouths we express thoughts and opinions, we make requests, and we converse. Our mouths allow us to commune with one another through *communication*. Communication leads to unity. Unity leads to great accomplishment. Communication among men reached its epitome at the Tower of Babel, but it was rebellious, so God confounded the languages.

PRAYER

Prayer is how we communicate with God. Prayer is how we commune with God. Prayer is a spoken oration. Throughout the Bible, prayer was always spoken (with the exception of Hannah). Internal musings upon the Word are called meditations. There are many types of prayer for the New Testament believer: supplications, intercessions, petitions, thanksgivings, tongues. (For a more in-depth study on prayer, visit the podschool.org Course on *Prayer*.)

- **I exhort therefore, that, first of all, supplications, prayers, intercessions, and giving of thanks, be made for all men;** **1 Timothy 2:1**

The New Testament speaks of ten different types of prayer: petitions, supplications, intercessions, thanksgiving, tongues, prayer of faith, prayer of consecration, prayer of agreement, travails, and groanings.

THANKSGIVING

Thanksgiving is technically a form of prayer, but we have singled it out because it quickly extinguishes multiple mouth sins, e.g., complaining, murmuring, etc. Thanksgiving does not have to be limited toward God only, but we can also direct thanks toward people. This is, of course, called gratefulness.

- **By him therefore let us offer the sacrifice of praise to God continually, that is, the fruit of our lips giving thanks to his name. Hebrews 13:15**

○ “All the doors of life swing upon the hinges of gratitude.” -Dr. Mark T. Barclay

EXHORTATION

The Greek word for exhortation is *parakaleo*. It literally means *to call someone to your side*. By usage the word means *to strongly encourage, to urge, to comfort, to instruct*. In the Greek language, there is a hint of warning with this word. We are to use our mouths to exhort one another to do the Word. There is an implied danger if we don't heed the warning.

- **But exhort one another daily, while it is called To day; lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin. Hebrews 3:13**

EDIFICATION

Edification is the building up of someone or something. We must use our words to build up one another, instead of tearing each other down. Edification is the opposite of “bite and devour” as addressed in **Galatians 5:15**.

- **Let us therefore follow after the things which make for peace, and things wherewith one may edify another. Romans 14:19**
- **Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers. Ephesian 4:29**
- **Neither give heed to fables and endless genealogies, which minister questions, rather than godly edifying which is in faith: so do. 1 Timothy 1:4**

BLESSING

In this context, a blessing is the opposite of a curse. It is a decreed invocation of the protection and favor of God. We are to use our mouths to declare blessings on our lives and upon those we meet. The Hebrew word means *to invoke God*.

- **All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them. Genesis 49:28**
- **And he took them [little children] up in his arms, put his hands upon them, and blessed them. Mark 10:16**
- **Out of the same mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be. James 3:10**

CAST OUT DEVILS

Many times casting out devils will require a vocal command from the believer. Jesus Christ cast out devils by commanding them to come out. We are not better than our Master. We will have to use our mouths to command them to come out.

- **And they were all amazed, insomuch that they questioned among themselves, saying, What thing is this? what new doctrine is this? for with authority commandeth he even the unclean spirits, and they do obey him.**
Mark 1:27
- **And these signs shall follow them that believe; In my name shall they cast out devils; they shall speak with new tongues;**
Mark 16:17

DECLARATIONS/DECREES

Authorized individuals have power to declare and decree things. We are authorized agents of heaven, re-presenting God in the earth today. We should be declaring His glory and His will. We should be issuing heavenly decrees for the world around us.

- **Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways.**
Job 22:28
- **By me [wisdom] kings reign, and princes decree justice.**
Proverbs 8:15

CONFESSION/PROFESSION

Confession is the Greek word *homologeō*—literally *to say the same thing*. To gain salvation, we submit our mouths to God's mouth, and we say the same thing. To confess sin, we submit our lives to His truth and declare what He has already declared about sin—what we did was sinful. We believe the Word (*logos*) of God; therefore, we constantly affirm, speak, and confess the same thing (*homo*).

- **For with the heart man believeth unto righteousness; and with the mouth confession is made unto salvation.**
Romans 10:10
- **It is written: "I believed; therefore I have spoken." Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak,** 2 Corinthians 4:13 NIV
- **Let us hold fast the profession of our faith without wavering; (for he is faithful that promised;)**
Hebrews 10:23
- **If we confess our sins, he is faithful and just to forgive us our sins, and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness.**
1 John 1:9



FRUIT PRODUCTION

- **A man shall be satisfied with good by the fruit of his mouth: and the recompence of a man's hands shall be rendered unto him.**
Proverbs 12:14
- **A man's belly shall be satisfied with the fruit of his mouth; and with the increase of his lips shall he be filled.**
Proverbs 18:20

It is evident from the Bible that our mouths till, cultivate, and harvest the gardens that are our lives. Let us take inventory of how well we are or are not eating in life.

THE MOUTH Lesson 4 The Mouth—A Powerful Stewardship!

This will be the controversial lesson of our curricula. There are some within Christendom who do not believe that the mouth contains power to create, destroy, bless, curse, deliver, bind, etc. This lesson will evaluate what the Bible, not tradition, has to say about the power contained within our mouths.

A STEWARDSHIP

According to Jesus Christ, our mouths and our words are a stewardship. We will be judged for what we say and what we accomplish with our mouths.

- **But I tell you that everyone will have to give account on the day of judgment for every empty word they have spoken. ³⁷For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.**

Matthew 12:36-37 NIV

The fact that God will judge our mouths and their fruit indicates that the Lord takes our mouths quite seriously. He will not judge the dog's bark, the lion's roar, or the whale's song; He will judge our communication. Why? Because it has power that He has entrusted us with.

KEEPING OUR WORD

- **Then said the LORD unto me, Thou hast well seen: for I will hasten (*diligently watch after*) my word to perform it.** Jeremiah 1:12

God has set the standard for the use of our words. Firstly, our words must be spoken to accomplish something, and secondly, we must diligently watch after our words to make sure they come to pass.

- **And Samuel grew, and the LORD was with him, and did let none of his words fall to the ground.** 1 Samuel 3:19

Samuel had the testimony that none of his words ever failed to come to pass. This indicates that every prophecy was fulfilled, every commitment was kept, and every promise fulfilled. It took God's help, but Samuel sets a high example for us to strive for.

- **... Who may enter your presence on your holy hill? ... ⁴Those who despise flagrant sinners, and honor the faithful followers of the LORD, and keep their promises even when it hurts.** Psalm 15:1b, 4 NLT



The psalmist declared that those that keep their word get to walk in the presence of God. These are scriptures concerning the criticality of a Christian simply keeping their word and fulfilling promises. We must learn to restrain and harness the tongue in these areas first.

CREATIVE AND DESTRUCTIVE POWER

- **The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.** **Proverbs 18:21 NIV**

This verse is too clear to confuse or misinterpret. We have the power to produce life and death. Sometimes death is what needs to be declared: death to the old man, death to sinful friendships, death to cancer, etc. Sometimes life is what we need: life to our body, life to our marriage, life to our walk with God, etc. We must be careful to never kill that which God wants alive, nor resurrect that which God wants dead.

- **The tongue also is a fire, a world of evil among the parts of the body. It corrupts the whole body, sets the whole course of one's life on fire, and is itself set on fire by hell.** **James 3:6 NIV**

The tongue must be tamed. It has the ability to burn our entire lives down with hell's fire. This is, without argument, a destructive power.

- **... And it is with your mouth that you profess your faith and are saved (*deliverance, safety, health, preservation*).** **Romans 10:10b NIV**

Our mouths are the tool whereby we bring about and manifest the salvation of God in our lives. This salvation is not just eternal life, but it is deliverance from evil and bondage, safety from destruction, health in time of sickness, and preservation in time of calamity. We confess the Word and are saved, delivered, rescued, healed, and preserved.

A DEMONSTRATION OF FAITH

As Christians, we are to be imitators of our Father in heaven.

- **Imitate God, therefore, in everything you do, because you are his dear children.** **Ephesians 5:1 NLT**

Little children learn the appropriate use of speech from their parents. Listening to our parents develops our accents and even dialect. What should we learn from our heavenly Father regarding the use of our mouths?

- **And God said, Let there be light: and there was light.** **Genesis 1:3**

The second thing God Almighty did in the Bible was speak light into the darkness He saw. If we are to be imitators of our Father, we must learn to speak light into the darkness we see.

The Bible is very clear, the words of our mouths are one of the primary ways we demonstrate and manifest our faith. If we truly believe something, it will eventually make its way to our mouths. The spirit of faith cannot keep silent.

- **It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” Since we have that same spirit of faith, we also believe and therefore speak, 2 Corinthians 4:13 NIV**

Faith is a spirit and it is not a quiet one. The spirit of faith will compel you to speak and declare. The devil prefers quiet Christians. God expects us to be outspoken Christians.

- **... Have faith in God. ²³For verily I say unto you, That whosoever shall say unto this mountain, Be thou removed, and be thou cast into the sea; and shall not doubt in his heart, but shall believe that those things which he saith shall come to pass; he shall have whatsoever he saith. Mark 11:22b-23**

The subject of this passage is faith. Notice what faith can do when used—speak to a mountain and the mountain obeys. We don’t just talk to hear ourselves. We speak to accomplish the will of God. We speak to remove hindrances out of our lives. And we can “have whatsoever we saith.”

- **And the Lord said, If ye had faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye might say unto this sycamine tree, Be thou plucked up by the root, and be thou planted in the sea; and it shall obey you. Luke 17:6**

A very similar passage to Mark 11:23 relates the power of the spoken word to a problematic sycamine tree. Here, even the smallest of faith has the power to command a tree to be plucked up and cast into the sea. The mountain represents life’s obstacles. The tree represents the heart’s obstacles.

- **Thou shalt also decree a thing, and it shall be established unto thee: and the light shall shine upon thy ways. Job 22:28**

The Bible promises that the decrees of our mouths have the ability to establish things in our lives and cause light to shine upon our lives. If you never speak and declare, nothing will ever be established in your life.

May the sins of our mouths be muted, but may the volume on our light be maxed out!

THE MOUTH Lesson 5 Blessing And Cursing

- **But the tongue no man can tame; it is an unruly evil, full of deadly poison. ⁹Therewith bless we God, even the Father; and therewith curse we men, which are made after the similitude of God. ¹⁰Out of the mouth proceedeth blessing and cursing. My brethren, these things ought not so to be.**

James 3:8-10

These verses indicate the early Church had a healthy understanding of blessing and cursing. Sadly, this is something modern saints have lost. We know that **death and life are in the power of the tongue (Proverbs 18:21)**. Oddly enough Proverbs lists death first then life. We need to further understand how powerful the ability to bless and curse really is. We will study biblical examples of blessing and cursing in this lesson.

BLESSING

To review, a blessing is a decreed invocation of the protection and favor of God. We are to use our mouths to declare blessings on our lives and upon those we meet. The Hebrew word means *to invoke God*. The Bible contains many examples of God's people invoking a blessing, not as a pleasantry, nor as a mere customary greeting, but as a divine declaration with prophetic power and long-lasting results. The mandate to bless should be taken very seriously.

Noah's Blessing

Noah is the first person recorded in the Bible blessing an individual. He blessed his sons Shem and Japheth:

- **And he said, Blessed be the LORD God of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant. ²⁷God shall enlarge Japheth, and he shall dwell in the tents of Shem; and Canaan shall be his servant.**

Genesis 9:26-27

Truly Shem and Japheth were blessed. They are generally regarded as having been progenitors of the Orient (Japheth) and Africa (Shem).

Melchizedek's Blessing

Melchizedek is only the second person in the Bible narrative to proclaim a blessing upon a person. He blessed Abram after a victorious military campaign, bearing witness to God's pre-established blessing (**Genesis 12**):

- **And he blessed him, and said, Blessed be Abram of the most high God, possessor of heaven and earth; ²⁰And blessed be the most high God, which hath delivered thine enemies into thy hand. And he [Abram] gave him tithes of all.**

Genesis 14:19-20

Melchizedek confirmed God's blessing on Abraham. How successful was Melchizedek's blessing upon Abraham? Abraham had victory and favor everywhere he went, even in the face of lustful kings. The blessing of Abraham is so important to this day that it's one of the reasons Jesus Christ died to redeem us from the curse of the Law, "**That the blessing of Abraham might come on the Gentiles through Jesus Christ;**" (Galatians 3:14).

Isaac's Blessing

Bible custom holds that the firstborn son of each family receives their family lineage, wealth, and blessing. Isaac wanted to bless Esau before he passed away. Isaac favored Esau, but Rebekah favored Jacob; therefore, Rebekah conspired with Jacob to deceive his father in order to obtain the blessing. They were successful and Isaac's blessing contained the following, some of it being recited from the Lord's blessing over Abraham (**Genesis 12:3**):

- **Let people serve thee, and nations bow down to thee: . . . cursed be every one that curseth thee, and blessed be he that blesseth thee.**

Genesis 27:29

This blessing was so effective that not even Isaac could recall it once he discovered he had blessed the wrong son:

- **And Isaac answered and said unto Esau, Behold, I have made him [Jacob] thy lord, and all his brethren have I given to him for servants; and with corn and wine have I sustained him: and what shall I do now unto thee, my son?**

Genesis 27:37

Isaac had to literally scrounge around for another blessing to give to his favorite son. His blessing came to pass for Jacob. Jacob became Israel. Nations served him (and still do). Hundreds of years later, Balaam would reiterate the blessing of "**blessed are those that bless you, and cursed are those that curse you**" (**Numbers 24:9**). This promise in particular holds true even to this day. Entire nations have either prospered or suffered depending on their stance with Israel.

Jacob's Blessing

Jacob learned how to bless from his father Isaac. As he was preparing to pass away, he called the twelve patriarchs to him in order to bless them. His blessing included the following:

- **²⁸All these are the twelve tribes of Israel: and this is it that their father spake unto them, and blessed them; every one according to his blessing he blessed them . . . ⁵Simeon and Levi are brethren; instruments of cruelty are in their habitations. ⁷Cursed be their anger, for it was fierce; and their wrath, for it was cruel: I will divide them in Jacob, and scatter them in Israel. ⁸Judah, . . . ¹⁰The scepter shall not depart from Judah, nor a lawgiver from between his feet, until Shiloh come; . . .**

Genesis 49:28, 5, 7, 10a

Jacob's blessing was so powerful; it blessed Levi out of a lifestyle of revenge and anger (he had brutally slaughtered a city for the rape of his sister Dinah) and prepared him for a lifestyle of mercy and intercession. (Levi became the priests.) After the conquest of Canaan, Levi never inherited any land; the priesthood was their inheritance. Simeon's land portion was contained within Judah and separated from the Levites. (Jacob's blessing had declared they would be divided.) Judah became the tribe that produced the kings, including Jesus Christ.

Be careful whom you bless.

- **If there come any unto you, and bring not this doctrine, receive him not into your house, neither bid him God speed (*to greet joyfully, to welcome*): ¹¹For he that biddeth him God speed is partaker of his evil deeds.**

2 John 1:10-11

Don't act like everything is "okay" when it's not.

CURSING

There are several Bible examples concerning cursing. Remember, biblical cursing has nothing to do with foul or coarse language. It is not the equivalent of American *cussin'*. Another word for cursing is *imprecation* or *malediction*: *to call down a curse, to invoke evil or judgment*. As Christians, there are times we must curse things (see **Psalm 149:6-9**).

Noah's Curse

His youngest son Ham, the father of Canaan, saw Noah naked and reveled in it. When Noah realized what Ham had done, he invoked the first curse:

- **And he said, Cursed be Canaan; a servant of servants shall he be unto his brethren.**

Genesis 9:25

Remember, Ham was the father of Canaan. How cursed were Ham's descendants? His future homeland was called Canaan, and his descendants were called Jebusites, Amorites, Girgasites, Hivites, Arkites, Sinites, Arvadites, Zemarites, and Hamathites. They were the inhabitants Canaan, and many specifically inhabited the area of Sodom, Gomorrah, Admah, and Zeboim—the region which God wiped out in **Genesis 19**. Joshua, the Judges, and David defeated the rest of Canaan. Noah's initial curse was still coming to pass hundreds of years later. God could give Canaan to Abraham, in part, because Noah had cursed Canaan.

Jesus' Curse

Jesus cursed the fig tree because it was misleading and hypocritical:

- **And seeing a fig tree afar off having leaves, he came, if haply he might find any thing thereon: and when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves; for the time of figs was not yet. ¹⁴And Jesus answered and said unto it, No man eat fruit of thee hereafter for ever. And his disciples heard it . . . ²⁰And in the**

**morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots.
Mark 11:13-14, 20**

The fig tree represented Israel and their spiritual condition. Jesus came from afar to see this tree, Israel. Fig trees produce leaves after they produce figs. This tree, like Israel, was declaring it had fruit when, in fact, it did not. The time of fruit was not yet come. How can you bear fruit without Christ? Israel was declaring they could have fruit and salvation without their Messiah. After He cursed the fig tree, Jesus went and cleansed the temple (**Matthew 21:12**).

Peter's Curse

Peter cursed Sapphira over lying. He did not curse Ananias.

- **Then Peter said unto her, How is it that ye have agreed together to tempt the Spirit of the Lord? behold, the feet of them which have buried thy husband are at the door, and shall carry thee out. ¹⁰Then fell she down straightway at his feet, and yielded up the ghost . . .** Acts 5:9-10a

This couple was judged for lying about an offering. Ananias was judged much more quickly and severely because he was the head of their household. Sapphira was given an opportunity to repent. She did not. Peter's curse came to pass instantly.

Paul's Curse

Paul cursed a sorcerer for hindering the Gospel.

- **Then Saul, (who also is called Paul,) filled with the Holy Ghost, set his eyes on him, ¹⁰And said, O full of all subtilty and all mischief, thou child of the devil, thou enemy of all righteousness, wilt thou not cease to pervert the right ways of the Lord? ¹¹And now, behold, the hand of the Lord is upon thee, and thou shalt be blind, not seeing the sun for a season. And immediately there fell on him a mist and a darkness; and he went about seeking some to lead him by the hand.** Acts 13:9-11

Elymas, the sorcerer, was cursed because he was hindering the Gospel. The instant demonstration of this power of God caused the politician, Sergius Paulus, to convert to Christianity.

Our words are powerful. God wants to accomplish so much more through our mouths, but we must learn to harness this power. A word of caution concerning cursing: this is such a powerful and dangerous tool in our Christian arsenal, we must be careful to make sure we have the approval of God before we curse any situation. If Jesus cursed it, we can curse it (e.g., sin, sickness, demons, etc.). But don't forget you are to, first and foremost, pray for your enemies, not curse them (**Luke 6:28**).

May we pray that God would help us to put a guard over our mouths!! Amen!