

Gathering

BLESSING

Whenver good is done to us, we often respond by saying “*God bless you.*” Good deeds are rewarded with blessings, right? But what happens if a person isn’t as kind and the deeds aren’t as polite?

For example, there might be an employee at your job that is always conspiring against you, or a next-door neighbor who is constantly complaining about something you do or the lady at church who thinks you’re trying to take her position, so she sabotages your work. Certainly, kindness isn’t on top of the “*how to treat your enemies list*” then. Yet, God commands us to ‘bless them!’.

1 Peter 3:9 says “*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.*”

To bless someone, is to wish for God’s goodness to fill their lives completely as God does with us. It is choosing to extend grace and favor even when it seems undeserving.

Blessing our enemies may sound difficult to do, but it can be as simple as giving a warm smile, doing an act of kindness or lending our support in their difficult times. You would be surprised to see that these little gestures can remove the seeds of anger and bitterness that can grow in us when we are mistreated. Instead, they will bless us with the freedom to genuinely care for our offenders.

Therefore, let us be encouraged to show goodness to those who hurt us, so that we might in turn, reap a harvest of God’s blessings! After reading scripture consider these questions-

- Share a time when you were treated unfairly. How did you respond?
- Have you ever blessed someone who was unkind to you? How did you do so?
- What are some things that prevents us from showing kindness to those who hurt us?
- What assurance do we have when we choose to bless our offenders?

Complete your monthly report and turn it in to the Corps Officer.

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1 Peter 3:9



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Share a time when you were treated **unfairly**. How did you **respond**?



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Have you ever **blessed** someone who was unkind to you? **How** did you do so?



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What are some things that prevents us from showing **Kindness** to those who **hurt** us?



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What assurance do we have when we choose to **bless** our offenders?

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LUKE 6:27-28

But to you who are listening I say: Love your enemies, do good to those who hate you, bless those who curse you, pray for those who mistreat you.

PROVERBS 25:21-22

If your enemy is hungry, give him food to eat; if he is thirsty, give him water to drink. In doing this, you will heap burning coals on his head, and the LORD will reward you.

- Examine the verses following verses, how are they similar to the one we have studied?
- What examples of blessing our enemies are outlined in Proverbs 25:21-22?
- How does Proverbs 25:21-22 describe the effect we have in choosing to bless our enemies? What does this mean?
- Besides the ones we have discussed, think of some other practical ways of blessing our enemies.



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