

Blessings and Curses Chapter 4 (Where is the line?)

Questions for discussion

1. Do we deserve blessings and curses?

If we intentionally do good things do we deserve a blessing? If we make a mistake are we asking for a curse? Why do we judge our actions? Is it possible we expect judgment on the things we do. I know that some people have done bad things. We secretly hope they get what they deserve. Is there a spiritual or physical set of rules on this earth in regards to blessings and curses?

“How can we know if a blessing is a blessing? That seems like a strange question because a blessing is good, right? We deserved this blessing because of the good things we did in the sight of God. If we believe in karma, then goodness befalls us. Did we do good things to get a blessing? The reason I ask these questions is because of the line between right and wrong. This line is not the same for any person existing in the history of humankind. So how do we measure who is doing good or bad. Are these people deserving of a blessing or a curse?” Chapter 4, p, 1

2. If we are good in our eyes is that good enough?

Years ago I told someone that I became a Christian. They did not believe me. They said that anyone could change but me. You know they believed I was bad. I believe I am generally a good person. Do I get to go to heaven? Will I be a blessed man if I try and do good? Maybe I live a cursed life and deserve curses. Do you believe that all people are good enough? Are you?

“In the eyes of these people, they are clean. In the eyes of the priest they are forgiven. They feel better and the priest feels better. Suppose the priest has been secretly having a fling with a prostitute but he never confesses that. Is he justified in God’s eyes because he helped do Gods work in the confession box? Are any of these people blessed because they confessed their sins? Are they cursed because they left things out? If they go on with their day feeling good about themselves, are they deserving of a blessing? Good things come to those who do good things, right?” Chapter 4, p, 4

3. Who deserves a blessing or a curse?

I know pastors in churches that deserve to be blessed. I know others that have been a curse to others. There is a fellow I know that worked as a missionary in the Philippines. He is a wonderful man. He and his family moved back to Canada and he took a job as a professor. He is a brilliant man. Recently he started loosing his eye sight and was let go from a Christian university. Is he blessed or cursed? Did he deserve his

Blessings and Curses Chapter 4 (Where is the line?)

current fate? Maybe how we look at blessings and curses is all wrong. What do you think about who deserves what?

“I hate that I do bad things. I wish I could be cleaner. There are things others do which make me wonder if they are going to hell. How can I judge them of their sin? It comes down to two things in our eyes. Did we cause our own trouble or blessings? Did we deserve a curse or warrant a blessing? Is what I call sin really a sin? Some say yes and others say no. This is why I have reiterated for four chapters now to reconsider curses and blessings. Things are not as they seem in the physical and spiritual world.”
Chapter 4, p, 6

4. Have you ever been happy about a curse?

I have actually been happy about a curse. Well that is not totally true. I like it now but hated it then. In hindsight somethings look better or worse than they began. I wonder how things would have turned out if I embraced the curse. Muhamad Ali says **“The man who views the world at 50 the same as he did at 20 has wasted 30 years of his life.”** It’s possible our view on blessings and curses are all wrong. If we could find a way to see a curse as a blessing in disguise, then maybe it’s not all bad.

“In verse 41 it says, “The apostles left the high council rejoicing that God had counted them worthy to suffer disgrace for the name of Jesus.” It’s interesting that these men did good in the name of the Lord, but were arrested and flogged for their actions. Men in high places felt it was an act against God. However, the apostles were freed several times and became joyful in their sufferings. What one group saw as a curse became a blessing to another. That’s why I say that blessings and curses are the same thing. It’s all about perspective.” Chapter 4, p, 8

5. What if blessings and curses were training ground?

I wonder if I looked at certain events in my life in a different light, life might have turned out differently. What I mean is my view on blessings and curses. They say everything happens for a reason. Ok, then why do we get stressed over curses? I was in an accident several years ago, but tried to look at the bright side. That was hard, yet good things came of the event in the long run. I realized it was training ground to grow me. What do you think?

“Maybe God is working things out to make heaven a community like no other. What does that have to do with sin, or blessings and curses? I think it’s how God gets us there. Emerson (quoted above) could see it. A good thing happens to one person, which is bad for another. Is it possible God uses all things to make good? It’s interesting that the ancient Hebrews were told of this Promised Land. Through the centuries these Hebrews



Blessings and Curses Chapter 4 (Where is the line?)

were less than stellar, yet they believe the promise remains. They still wanted their bones to enter the land to receive the blessing.” Chapter 4, p, 10

6. What are your motives with blessings and curses?

If God is the curator of blessings and curses, then why does he give them? Is a blessing just about giving presents to good children? Is a curse all about punishing bad people? Do we act nice to receive nice back? Do we think that avoiding bad behaviour is just to avoid curses? How do you treat your motives and actions? There is a thought about doing the right thing because it’s the right thing to do. What do you think?

“Am I sure? James 4:3 says, “When you ask, you do not receive, because you ask with wrong motives, that you may spend what you get on your pleasures.” That is this chapter in a nutshell. We pray for stuff but what is our motive? We believe we don’t sin but what is the motive? The only reason you have a list of sins is so that your sins are not on it. I said before that sin comes down to motive and pride. The line of what is wrong or right depends on where you place your motives and pride.” Chapter 4, p, 12