

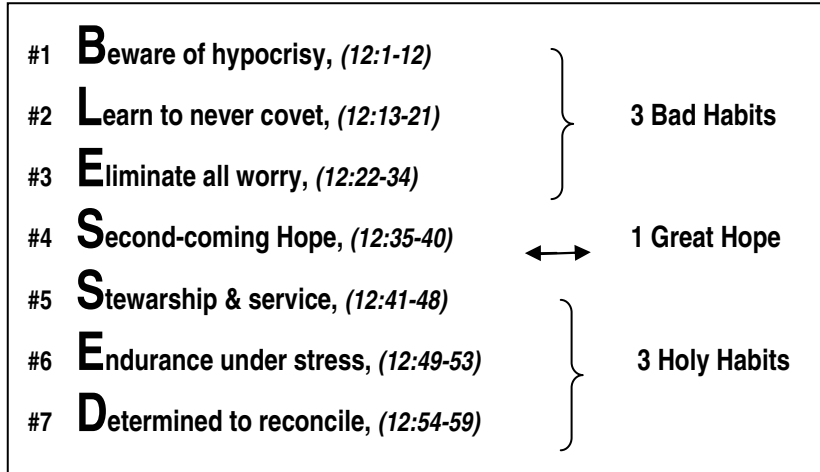
'WHY ME?!'

(Don't Lose Your Keys! Stay Blessable)

Luke 13

Synopsis: We began 2010 in our 'life of Christ' **Luke 12 & 13** seeing the 7 keys to 'blessability' (chapter 12 of Luke's gospel). Using the acrostic '**BLESSED**' we saw 3 negative things to avoid, 1 primary motivational event and 3 positive things to strive for as Christians.

Remember?



The main idea is that if Christians live like this they are automatically 'Blessable' and can expect their heavenly Father to shower them with 'good things from above' and keep them from 'evils of the world'. Walking in right relationship to the Lord like this constitutes '7 keys to being blessable'. The vigilant disciple of the Lord Jesus is very careful to NOT 'lose his or her keys' that unlock the door to blessing.

We are concluding Luke Chapter 13 today by examining the third way to make sure we don't lose our keys to being blessable. First, it is important to develop a humble state of mind that treasures his or her fellowship with God and is easily brought to **repentance** if things go wrong (13:1-9). Secondly, it's vital to cultivate **expectance** as a daily attitude that always looks for God to do something special (13:10-21). Today, the final spiritual skill to not losing your keys to blessability is **diligence** in always speaking the truth in love to others (and yourself) (13:22-35). When we live in this way, we, by the Holy Spirit's strength, are disciplining every part of our being: spirit / repentance; soul / expectance; and body / diligence (**1 Thessalonians 5:23-24**). Christians who live and think like this don't whine out to God: 'Why me?!'; they walk by faith and say 'I don't understand, but I shall overcome in Your strength and grace'.

Dear C.B.F. church family,

My hope and prayer for all of you is that this series to begin the New Year has given you a spiritual template to start the year (*and hopefully continue all year*) in a way that God will bless you with the 'abundant life' in Christ He wants you to have (**John 10:10**)! It usually takes 7 to 10 weeks to change lifestyle habits – we spent **7 weeks on 'Blessability'** and now, **3 weeks on 'Blessability' maintenance**. I hope that character changes and spiritual growth has taken place during this series. If you ever feel the need for a blessing this year, just review this study guide, do a little spiritual inventory and pray. Then, just **'Be BLESSABLE'!** **PtL**

P.S. We will resume **Luke 14** with a new series in '*The Life & Times Of Jesus*' after Resurrection Day.

‘Why Me?!’

(Part 3 – ‘Diligence To Truth’)

Luke 13:22-35

“...but speaking the truth in love, (you) may grow up in all things into Him Who is the head – Christ – from Whom the whole body (church family) joined and knit together by what every joint supplies (ministry & fellowship), according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”
Ephesians 4:15-16

‘Speaking The Truth...’

(The whole truth & nothing but the truth...)

To Inquirers / ‘Seekers’

“And He (Jesus) went through the cities and villages, teaching, and journeying toward Jerusalem. Then one said to Him, “Lord, are there few who are saved?” And He said to them, “Strive to enter through the narrow gate, for many, I say to you, will seek to enter and will not be able. When once the Master of the house has risen up and shut the door and you begin to stand outside and knock at the door saying, “Lord, Lord, open for us,’ and He will answer and say to you, ‘I don’t know you, where you are from,’ then you will begin to say, ‘We ate and drank in Your presence, and You taught in our streets.’ But He will say, ‘I tell you I do not know you, where your are from. Depart from Me, all you workers of iniquity.’ There will be weeping and gnashing of teeth, when you see Abraham and Isaac and Jacob and all the prophets in the kingdom of God, and yourselves thrust out. They will come from the east and the west, from the north and the south, and sit down in the kingdom of God. And indeed there are last who will be first, and there are first who will be last.”

Luke 13:22-30

To Intimidators / ‘Enemies’

“On that very day some Pharisees came, saying to Him, “Get out and depart from here, for Herod wants to kill You.” And He said to them, “Go tell that fox, ‘Behold, I cast out demons and perform cures today and tomorrow, and the third day I shall be perfected.’ Nevertheless I must journey today, tomorrow, and the day following; for it cannot be that a prophet should perish outside of Jerusalem.”

Luke 13:31-34

‘Speaking...In Love.’

(...so help me, God. Amen.)

To Incurrigibles (Those You Love, Who Don’t Love You)

(said by Jesus both here and again, a few months later, just before the cross / Matthew 23:37-39)

“O Jerusalem, Jerusalem, the one who kills the prophets and stones those who are sent to her! How often I wanted to gather your children together, as a hen gathers her brood under her wings, but you were not willing! See! Your house is left to you, desolate; and assuredly, I say to you, you shall not see Me until the time comes when you say, ‘Blessed is He Who comes in the Name of the LORD!’”

Luke 13:34-35

Communion – Jesus’ Sacrificial Diligence

The first Sunday of each month when we partake of ‘the bread’ and ‘the cup’ we recall the Lord Jesus’ diligence in graphically showing His unconditional, sacrificial love at the cross. The truth of His sacrifice is that all of us were rightfully condemned to eternal death in Hell and the Lake of Fire. This was the message of His gruesome treatment by mankind and His experience of the wrath of God against sin. The love of it is that Christ’s cross-work for us not only shows the truth about God’s hatred of sin, but it also provides the basis for our forgiveness, pardon and gift of everlasting life. Yes, Jesus, the living Word of God was speaking the truth in love when He took your place and mine on the cross. Have you truly turned from sin to the Savior?, from the broad way that leads to destruction to the straight and narrow Way that leads to life? If you have, please partake of the Lord’s Supper today with thanksgiving that He has made you ‘blessable’ by His infinite love and grace.