

THE BIG IDEA: God can make a way through whatever is in our way.

### The Take-Off

In case you haven't noticed, the world is full of stupid people, and they're really good at ruining our happiness! It would seem that some have taken stupidity to a whole new level, and I brought along some pictorial evidence.

[Stupid pics] (mention that the last few pics had the file names *Dump-people-X.jpg*)

As much as it seems that there are stupid people everywhere, what we're going to find out today is that they are only 1 of 3 major categories that we're calling "blessing blockers"

As we saw in part 1, God wants us to be happy, and last week in part 2, we discovered the reason why he wants us to be happy.

Today, we want to address the elephant in the middle of the room: "Why are there times we don't feel happy?"

Since I know that most of us came anticipating the answer to what to do with stupid people, we'll just hold on to that blessing blocker until the end.

Before we jump in, let me explain something so I don't lose you: I'm going to give you a ton of verses today.

That's not typically how we like to roll - not because we don't like the Bible, but because we like to give you one primary passage and just keep your attention there.

But today, I just need you to see that the Bible doesn't just mention these blessing blockers. Instead, it goes over the top addressing them because that's how committed God is to our living lives blessed by him.

So, click your pen in the ready position, open up your Bibles or your Bible app, and let's jump right into the first blessing blocker.

### 1. **Blessing Blocker #1: Sin**

- a. Before we start reading a ton of truth about how sin negatively affects our happiness, let's read one that actually tells us the opposite: sin can be fun for a bit.
- b. Hebrews 11:25 implies that there is pleasure in sin for a short time, and every last one of us agree with that statement, even if we don't agree about Jesus or church or even the Bible
- c. Sin is not an action as much as an attitude.
- d. Yes, there are wrong things that we shouldn't do, but often sin is the right thing done at the wrong time or with the wrong attitude.
- e. Sexual sin isn't the act, but the wrong who and the wrong where and the wrong when of the act.
- f. That's why people who have affairs don't tell the whole world, right? Because they know it's wrong.
- g. That's why shoplifters hide the stuff under coats instead of just walking out holding it. Having that item isn't sinful, but coveting it and taking it without paying for it is.
- h. So let's cut the typical idiotic conversation about whether or not there's sin, because all of us know there is.
- i. Our question today is what does sin do to the blessed life?
- j. Here are some verses showing the affect of sin on our happiness:
  - Numbers 32:23 - it exposes us
  - Psalm 51:3 - it leads to regret
  - Psalm 40:12 - it envelops and suffocates us
  - Isaiah 59:12 - it grows, gets bigger
  - Proverbs 28:13 - it keeps us from prospering
  - Psalm 51:12 - leads us away from joy
  - Romans 3:23 - leads to failure
  - Romans 6:23 - leads to death
- k. I think we can all agree that being exposed, overwhelmed, trapped, full of regret, defeated and dying isn't a life that we'd characterize as "happy, happy, happy" right?
- l. So what's the answer to the blessing blocker of sin?
- m. REPENTANCE - leads to times of refreshing (Acts 3:19)

### 2. **Blessing Blocker #2: Situations**

- a. Let's talk about another blessing blocker: situations.
- b. Some bad situations are a result of sin, but since we just dealt with that one, let's focus on "hard times"

- c. As an example - and I know I use this a lot, but it's a part of my story - losing my mother and brother within 20 days of each other is a situation that can be a blessing blocker
- d. Sickness, persecution, job loss, relationships - these are all examples where sin may not be the direct cause, but they are still hard situations
- e. Here's what the Bible says about hard situations:
  - John 16:33 - they are an expected part of life
  - Psalm 9:9 - they oppress us
  - Psalm 34:18 - they break us
- f. But look at the rest of those passages
  - John 16:33 - they are an expected, BUT JESUS HAS OVERCOME
  - Psalm 9:9 - they oppress us, BUT THE LORD IS A REFUGE
  - Psalm 34:18 - they break us, BUT THE LORD IS NEAR TO THE BROKENHEARTED
  - Zephaniah 3:17 - here's one more - in a corrupt, sinful and wicked culture, God stepped into the midst of his people and said he was with them and happy about being with them!
- g. So what is the answer to the blessing blocker of hard situations?
- h. TRUST - knowing that no matter what we face, Jesus is leading us THROUGH it to victory (2 Corinthians 2:14)

### 3. Blessing Blocker #3: Stupid people

- a. So now, we get to the blessing blocker you all came to find out about, right?
- b. What do we do about stupid people, and in case you weren't convinced with those pictures earlier, here's some more evidence from Facebook that stupid people really do exist...
- c. [Show Facebook Fails]
- d. Believe it or not, stupid people are mentioned in the Bible (in fact, the whole book of Proverbs is a good guard AGAINST them!), and here's what it says about them:
  - 1 Corinthians 15:33 - they can corrupt us
  - Psalm 1:1-4 - they make us unfruitful
  - Proverbs 22:24-25 - they can get us trapped, because
  - Proverbs 13:20 - they take us to bad places
- e. So, if all of these things are done TO us by stupid people, then what is the answer to this blessing blocker?
- f. HUMILITY - because the first 2 blockers remind us that we were stupid, too
- g. We were enemies of God and far from him, but Jesus brought us near to him
- h. Romans 12:14-21 gives practical advice for dealing with difficult people
  - v. 14 - bless stupid people
  - v. 15 - don't let the stupid people make your cold and uncaring
  - v. 16 - stay humble by remembering where Jesus found you
  - v. 17 - don't match pain for pain, but do what is right in front of them
  - v. 18 - do everything you can to live in peace with them (which may mean distance from them)
  - v. 19 - put them in God's hand
  - v. 20 - let your kindness lead them to life
  - v. 21 - don't be overcome by their bad choices
- i. Is any of this easy? No.
- j. But it wasn't easy to love any of us like that, was it? But someone did.

### The Landing

3 blessing blockers. 1 is internal (sin) and 2 are external (situations and stupid people). And what we've got to learn is that we can't look internally or externally for happiness. We've got to look eternally.

Let's look at 2 passages, and then we'll wrap the whole thing up with the Big Idea.

First, 2 Corinthians 4:17 - what happens HERE is working for us THERE

Second, Isaiah 43:19 - God is able to make rivers in deserts!

So here's the Big Idea for today, and then we want to spend time praying for those of you in tough places: **God can make a way through whatever is in our way.**