

## Day 21

# To Bless or To Curse

Romans 12:9-21

*Do not be overcome by evil, but overcome evil with good.*  
Romans 12:21

I was frustrated with my co-worker. I had done the right things. I went to her repeatedly. I confessed what I thought was a barrier between us. She swore continually that we had no issues, but she treated me poorly and talked about me behind my back. If she'd been a Christian, I would have sought the help of church leaders, but that wasn't an option. I was at a loss for what to do.

Praying on my way to work one day, I realized that what I hadn't been doing was loving her. Paul's words to the Ephesians came to mind: "Therefore be imitators of God, as beloved children. And walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us" (5:1-2). So I began to pray for her daily. I made a point of asking how she was doing, whereas previously I avoided her. I took time to be a listening ear and a supportive voice when she was unhappy. My attitude toward her started to change. I no longer tried to avoid her, but rather looked forward to seeing her. I also began to notice that her attitude toward me seemed to change.

Our relationship still has room for improvement. She still has her moments, as do I. But I'm not the one making the difference. God is changing me. Moreover, I see God's hand in her life bringing peace and healing in areas unrelated to me. That's what I've been praying for—her good, not just our relationship. Jesus loves me, this I know. And I know that he loves her too.

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*Lord, I know some people with whom there is still not peace between us. Help me to see where I have fallen short. Bless [names] for Jesus' sake. Show me how I can be a blessing to them. Amen.*

*Adapted from Forgiven to Forgive - 6 Weeks of Daily Devotions  
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**Write or type your answers.** Writing your answers helps you to meditate more deeply on the question, organize your thoughts, and provide a visible way for you to review and reflect on how this devotion applies to your specific situation.

1. Consider your opponent. How have your thoughts led to think unkind things about him/her? Has this helped or hurt your ability to reconcile?
2. Identify at least five different ways that you can show love, care and concern to this person, even if he/she is not treating you well.
3. Write a prayer in which you ask God to bless the other person. Include a petition that the Holy Spirit will guide you in finding ways to bless the other person and avoid cursing or thinking poorly of him/her.