



Part 3 • November 9, 2025 | Pastor Jason Smotherman

BLESSING YOUR CITY

PROVERBS 11:11 (NIV) *Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed."*

The Power of a Blessing: Every city carries both a promise and a problem. In every community there is beauty and brokenness, progress and pain, faith and fear. Some people look at their city and only see its sin, the crime, corruption, and chaos. But God looks at the same city and still sees promise.

From the beginning of Scripture, God has always been interested in cities. Cain built the first city. Abraham interceded for Sodom. Joseph served in Pharaoh's city. Daniel prayed for Babylon. Nehemiah rebuilt Jerusalem's walls. And Jesus Himself wept over His city, crying, "How often I longed to gather you under My wings."

Cities matter to God because people live there and people are His passion. The city is where the nations gather, where ideas are born, where culture is shaped, and where the Church is called to shine. God places His people in cities not to escape them, but to engage and transform them. **Grants Pass is our city.**

PROVERBS 11:11 (NIV) gives us a powerful truth about how cities rise and fall. It does not mention armies, policies, politicians, or political parties, but words. **That means the atmosphere of a city is shaped both by the words of its people and the blessing their character produces.** Blessings build; curses break. Righteous speech releases God's favor; wicked speech releases decay. God uses the mouths of His people to shift the spiritual climate of a community. When the righteous speak blessing, heaven's order begins to manifest.

Peace replaces chaos. Hope replaces despair. Revival replaces ruin. God raises up the upright as spiritual architects. People who build cities not with bricks, but with blessings. **PROVERBS 14:34 (NKJV)**

What righteousness produces exalts a nation. What sin produces brings disappointment. You and I have been placed in our city on purpose. You are not here by accident or coincidence. You are a divine ambassador, carrying the light of Christ into the streets, schools, workplaces, and neighborhoods of your community. **God's plan is not to remove you from your city but to move through you within it.** So the question is not, "What kind of city do I live in?" but, "What kind of voice am I in my city?" Are we echoing the complaints of the culture, or are we declaring

the promises of the Kingdom? This message reminds us that our words can lift a city or limit it, that our prayers can turn darkness to dawn, and that our blessing can exalt the place where God has planted us.

POINT 1: THE UPRIGHT ARE A CITY'S STRENGTH

The "upright" are the men and women who walk in integrity, prayer, and obedience to God. They may not sit in city hall or control the headlines, but they carry spiritual authority. ***The upright don't just live in their city — they lift it.*** They carry it in prayer. They speak well of it. They live as examples of righteousness that push back the darkness. What they produce in business, calling, and career eventually blesses the region they live in.

When righteous people bless, cities rise. When believers pray, communities change. When saints speak faith, despair loses its grip. ***Your words can be the hinge on which your city turns from despair to destiny.***

POINT 2: THE MOUTH OF THE WICKED TEARS DOWN

Destruction begins with words. Words of slander divide neighbors. Words of corruption twist justice. Words of unbelief paralyze hope. We often think cities fall because of politics or economics but the Bible says they fall because of speech.

The tongue of the wicked poisons the atmosphere. Those that repeat the wicked slander are just as guilty. That's why we must guard our own lips. We can't claim to love our city and constantly curse it. We can't complain about crime, corruption, or chaos and never declare life, light, and revival. God is looking for voices that will bless, not curse that will speak revival, not ruin.

The Weapon of Critical Speech and Gossip: If blessing exalts a city, then criticism and gossip destroy it from within. The enemy doesn't always attack a city with violence; sometimes he does it with voices. ***Critical speech is one of hell's most effective weapons because it turns believers into tools of division rather than vessels of blessing. JAMES 3:6 NIV***

A single spark of gossip can burn through relationships, ministries, and communities that took years to build. When we speak against one another instead of praying for one another, we give the enemy access to destroy unity.

Critical speech poisons the spiritual atmosphere. A little poison ruins the entire vessel. It discourages leaders, divides churches, and discredits the witness of God's people. ***Gossip magnifies flaws, but blessing magnifies grace.*** Criticism exposes weakness, but blessing releases healing.

When we tear down others with our words, we join the voice of the accuser rather than the voice of the intercessor. The devil doesn't need our help spreading negativity, he already has enough workers. What God needs are believers who can see the brokenness of their city and still speak life over it.

The tongue can be a weapon of war or a tool of healing. When surrendered to God, it becomes a trumpet of blessing. But when yielded to the flesh, it becomes a

sword that wounds and destroys. **EPHESIANS 4:29 (NIV)**

That means every conversation is a construction site, we are either building something or tearing something down. So before we speak about our city, our church, or our leaders, we must ask: "Am I building or breaking? Am I blessing or cursing?" Because the future of our city may depend on which voice we choose to be.

POINT 3: BLESSING YOUR CITY IS PROPHETIC PARTNERSHIP

When the righteous bless their city, they are joining God's purpose for that place. It's not empty positivity or willingly being naive, it's prophetic participation in heaven's plan. Think of it:

- When believers prayed in Acts 8, there was great joy in that city.
- When Jonah finally obeyed, an entire city, Nineveh, repented.
- When Jesus entered Jerusalem, people shouted, "Blessed is He who comes in the name of the Lord," and revival stirred in the streets.

The story of Jacob and Laban in **GENESIS 30:25-43**. Jacob had served Laban faithfully for years. Though Laban was a deceiver and a manipulator, he recognized that something supernatural rested on Jacob's life. In **GENESIS 30:27 (NKJV)**, Laban said, "*I have learned by experience that the Lord has blessed me because of you.*" ***That is the power of a righteous person's presence.*** Jacob's integrity brought increase to Laban's flocks, favor to his business, and prosperity to his household. ***Even an ungodly environment benefited from the blessing resting on a godly man.***

Jacob didn't have political influence or worldly power, but the blessing of God upon him transformed the atmosphere around him. Wherever he went, fruitfulness followed. What Jacob was to Laban's household, believers are called to be for their cities.

Your presence in your workplace, neighborhood, or town can shift the climate. Like Jacob, you carry divine favor that brings order, multiplication, and blessing even to those who don't yet know God. The upright exalt their city not just by what they say but by what they carry, the presence of the living God.

You may not be the mayor, but you have spiritual jurisdiction. Every time you pray, praise, and proclaim God's Word, you are building an altar of blessing over your city. The blessing on your life can overflow and touch your surroundings, just as Jacob's blessing elevated Laban's entire household.

PRACTICAL APPLICATION

- 1. Speak Life** – Refuse to echo negativity; declare God's promises over your community.
- 2. Pray for Leaders** – Ask God to give them wisdom and courage.
- 3. Serve w/Compassion** – Meet needs and let your light shine in practical ways.

4. Be Apart of the Gathering of the Saints – Unite the Church to bless the streets, schools, and systems of your city.

5. Walk in Integrity – Your personal righteousness releases public blessing.

6. Guard Your Tongue – Refuse to partner with gossip or criticism; choose to bless instead of blame.

7. Carry the Blessing – Like Jacob, live in such a way that others say, "God has blessed us because of you."

Become a Voice That Lifts: Your city doesn't need another critic, it needs an intercessor. It doesn't need more negativity, it needs a voice of blessing. Through your prayers, your faith, and your words, your city can be exalted. God has planted you where you are not by accident but on assignment. Lord, make me a voice that lifts my city. Teach me to bless, not curse. Use my life to bring peace, joy, and revival to where I live.

The Blessing That Builds Cities: Just as Jacob's presence brought increase to Laban's house, the presence of the righteous brings blessing to their city. Laban's flocks multiplied not because of his own goodness, but because of the covenant favor resting on Jacob. In the same way, our cities may be imperfect, unjust, or even spiritually cold — but God still chooses to bless them through His people. Proverbs 11:11 declares that "through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted." That means the same anointing that lifted Laban's house can lift your neighborhood, your workplace, and your community. When the upright walk in obedience, speak with faith, and live with integrity, the blessing on their life becomes a rising tide for everyone around them. You are not just living in your city you are blessing it. You are God's chosen vessel to release His favor where others have only spoken failure. When you bless your city, you're not just speaking words you are aligning heaven's purposes with earth's need. And when that happens, entire cities can be exalted.

From the City to Your Family: This principle doesn't stop at the city limits, it begins at home. The same blessing that can exalt a city can also heal and lift your family. If a city can be built up by the words of the upright, then so can a household. Proverbs 11:11 applies just as powerfully to your home as it does to your hometown. The blessing of a godly parent can exalt a family just as surely as it can bless a city. Your prayers, your words, and your faith-filled speech set the atmosphere in your house. When you speak life over your spouse, your children, and your circumstances, you invite God's favor to dwell there. Just as Jacob's blessing overflowed onto Laban's household, your blessing can overflow onto your own. The same power that lifts a community can restore a marriage, heal division, and raise up sons and daughters who carry the presence of God. Before we bless our city, we must first bless our homes because revival in the streets begins with revival around the dinner table.