

Generational Curses vs Generational Blessings 2/02/2020 Sunday AM

Introduction

- Last Sunday looked at **A Good Lesson from a Bad Example: Stewardship.**
- What we were able to see is that we are mere stewards of God's possessions. That means that everything that we have, our money, family, material possessions, and even our life belongs to God.
- He is evaluating what type of manager or steward we are with what he has entrusted us with and depending on how we do, he may entrust us with more or he may take it all away.
- So many people tell God if he would only give them more, they would do more. He will not give you more to mismanage, learn to be a good steward of the time, talent, and resources you have right now.
- This morning we are going to look at **Generational Curses vs Generational Blessings.**

Genesis 9:18-27

¹⁸The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.)
¹⁹These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the earth. ²⁰Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. ²¹When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. ²²Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside. ²³But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness. ²⁴When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." ²⁶He also said, "Blessed be the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem. ²⁷May God extend the territory of Japheth; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be his slave."

- **Vv.18-20** – What we see here is that Noah and his family have survived the flood and are now off the ark.
- Noah has become a “man of the soil,” and has planted a vineyard.
- **V.21** – Noah drank too much of the wine from his vineyard and it caused him to become drunk and for whatever reason he passed out naked in his tent.
- **V.22** – Ham was Noah's youngest son and by the time of the events here, he had already had children.
- It says, “Ham, the father of Canaan.” Canaan was actually Ham's youngest son.
- Ham “saw his father's nakedness and told his two brothers outside.”
- This is all we know of the specific actions of Ham here in this account.
- **V.23** – Here we see a contrast in how Shem and Japheth handled the situation. They “took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's nakedness.” It goes on to say that, “Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father's nakedness.”
- It is clear from these verses, that the issue was Ham seeing his father's nakedness because we see how his brothers took great care to not see their father's nakedness and to cover him up.
- **Vv.24-27** – What we see following this is that Noah wakes up and when he finds out what Ham did, he proceeds to curse Canaan.
- Shem and Japheth received blessings for how they handled the situation.

- What we have is Noah prophesying how Ham's youngest son would turn out.
- We know that Noah must have been in tune with God on this, because as it turns out, he was right.
- Not only was Noah right about Canaan being subservient to his brothers and his uncles as well, but his people were among some of the most wicked to have ever lived.
- Now, was all of this because of Noah's “curse,” not at all. It was because of the actions of the people themselves. Nobody made them act the way that they acted but themselves.
- However, what we can see from this account, is that our actions can very likely affect generations after us.

- How we live our lives can and will affect those closest to us. Sometimes in the here-and-now, and sometimes the effects come later.
- In this instance, Ham was not personally affected by his actions, but his son and later generations would be.
- Ham's blatant disregard and mockery of Noah's "nakedness" and shame showed a lot about who he was.
- We can pretty well deduce that Ham probably had a problem with sin and he did not lead his family as righteously as he should have, being that he was one of the people that was on the ark itself.
- Ham's unrighteous actions and example planted the wrong kind of seeds in the lives of his family.
- Those seeds of unrighteousness grew and like we said before, turned into many generations of unrighteous people.
- We are being watched every day of our lives by the people that we come in contact with.
- **How we live our lives is often times training material for those that are watching us.**
- What we do can and will affect people around us, our children most especially.

Proverbs 22:6

⁶Train a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not turn from it.

- **What does this verse say? Better yet, what doesn't it say?**
- Many of us cite this verse often, however, we usually add a little bit to it.
- This verse does not say, 'train a child in the way [of the Lord], and when he is old he will not turn from it.'
- It simply says, "Train a child in the **way he should go**, and when he is old he will not turn from it."
- Now for many people that "way he should do" may mean that you train your children up to be God fearing.
- *However, the principle of this verse is simply that children usually grow up to be products of how they were raised.
- So, **IF** you raised your children to be God fearing, they are highly likely to grow up and be just that.
- However, if you raised your children to NOT be God fearing, they are highly likely to grow up and be just that.
- People often time will say, "I raised my kids in church and they should know better..."
- **I am here to tell you folks, the little time your children are at church will never be as impactful as the large amount of time they are with you.**
- The 'seeds' you plant at home with your children will in most instances prove to be much more influential than any 'seeds' planted at school, church, or elsewhere.
- This same principle is true of anyone that is close to us, not just children, but other family members and people within our sphere of influence.
- What this proverb is saying is that basically we can determine whether we plant seeds of Generational Curses or Generational Blessings in how we lead our families.
- We see this play out every single day and we know that it is true.
- Can you break generational cycles? ABSOLUTELY.
- By that I mean you can break bad generational cycles and good ones too!
- We all have personal responsibility for our actions, however, we must realize that it is our duty to set people on the right path, not the wrong one.
- In order to do that, let's examine our steps and make sure we are walking in the right direct, lest we lead others to sin and unrighteousness.
- Let's resolve to do all we can to sow seeds that produce Generational Blessings, not curses.

Wednesday Night Adult Bible Study

Genesis 10:1-11:9