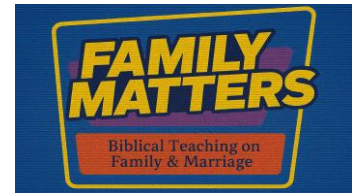


“Building A Legacy”  
Job 9:18-28  
Rev. Dustin Largent  
March 8, 2026

SERMON TRANSCRIPT



## Family Matters: Introduction

Here's what we're doing. We're going to take a quick detour. After Easter, we're going to be doing a new series called "Family Matters," where we're going to look at what the Bible says about family. We're in kind of a critical time here in our country where people have completely forgotten what family was and what family means. And so we're going to take a look at that after Easter.

Today is going to do a couple things. First of all, it's going to kind of introduce this to you so you can hear kind of where we're heading. When we do that series, it'll start after Easter. It's also a chance for the soil of your heart to kind of get ready for this, because this is a really critical issue when we talk about family. Family is at the core of what society's built on. It's at the core of who we are as people. Our faith is involved in that. How we live. Our money is involved with family. I mean, there are all kinds of things.

If you tick off and you look at your family and you say, "Well, you know, I had—" we talk about privilege, right? People talk about privilege all the time and they say, "Well, you know, you can't talk because you're privileged." Well, what's really being said is that you were born into some type of a family or born into something that gave you advantage. Is that bad? I don't know about you, but I want my son to have advantages. That's why I work hard. That's why we do what we do. We want the best for our kids. We don't go through life saying, "You know what? I'm going to make things as hard as it can for my kids so he can overcome all the crap that I put them through." You don't say that unless you're a psycho, right?

And so some of the things might frustrate you. They might make you angry. That's not my intention. My intention is to help you to understand a little bit of how things go with your kids. And so our text this morning is going to be from the Old Testament. If you ever read in the book of Genesis, how many have ever heard of Noah? Anybody ever heard of Noah? He's the big boat guy, right? The big boat guy.

## The Account of Noah

Let's take a look at what it says in the story of Noah. It's in **Genesis 9:18-28**. What's happened is there's been a worldwide flood. After the worldwide flood, Noah now with his kids—he had three sons. They each had wives and then they ended up having kids. So the world is getting populated again. Some time goes by, though, and we have a weird account. I don't know if you ever heard this account, but this account's really weird.

And here's what it says. It says ***the sons of Noah who went forth from the ark were Shem, Ham, and Japheth. Ham was the father of Canaan.*** Now that's important. So, we're looking at three different sons. And for some reason it's going to point out that Ham, who is the youngest, his son's name is Canaan. Canaan might, for those of you who read the Bible, ring a bell. When the Jews ended up leaving being enslaved by the Egyptians, they crossed the Red Sea. They eventually go into the Promised Land. That was called the Canaan land. So, the descendants of this guy right here, he inhabited all of that land. And so, when the Jews come in, they have to take that land back and overcome it.

***These three were the sons of Noah and from these people of the whole earth were dispersed. Noah began to be a man of the soil and he planted a vineyard. He drank of the wine and became drunk and lay uncovered in his tent.*** You're like, "What? I never knew that. I never knew that Noah was an alcoholic." Well, we don't know that he was an alcoholic, but he did get wasted, at least in this time, and he's buck naked in his tent. And I don't know—maybe you can relate to this to your family. I'm not sure. Some of us can.

It says, in ***Ham, the father of Canaan saw the nakedness of his father and told his two brothers outside. Then Shem and Japheth took a garment, laid it on both of their shoulders and walked backwards and covered the nakedness of their father. Their faces were turned backwards and they did not see their father's nakedness. When Noah awoke from his wine and knew what his youngest son had done, he said, "Cursed be Canaan, a servant of servants shall he be to his brothers."***

### **Understanding the Curse**

All right. Let's stop for a second and just think about this. What in the world just happened? Now, there's a lot of different views of what happened. Ham goes in, his dad's buck naked in his tent. And some of you are like, "Why are we talking about this at church?" We never knew we were going to be talking about an alcoholic guy wasted in his tent, showing all of his glory. But he's in his tent. He's in private. His son comes in—the son that's his youngest and the one that's kind of a little bit of a jerk. He comes into the tent and he sees his dad in there.

We don't know exactly what happens. It seems kind of to me a little bit harsh that he would say "cursed," based on the fact that he just saw him and said, "Hey, dad's naked in the tent drunk." That seems a little harsh. Now, if you were to go to like the book of Leviticus, it talks about sin in that. ***You shall not uncover the nakedness of your father's wife. It is your father's nakedness (Leviticus 18:8).*** In this whole passage, when it talks about uncovering the nakedness of somebody, it's talking about having sex with somebody.

So, we don't know for sure that anything specific happened between Ham and his dad. His dad was drunk and he went in. Maybe he did something he wasn't supposed to do. I'm inclined to think that he did something that was perverted and not right to do. And the brothers went in and tried to cover up the shame of his father and did it right. But it goes on; it says he saw his nakedness. Now, at the least it means that he saw him naked and mocked his dad.

So, we talked about honoring your father and mother, right? Your father and mother will oftentimes do stuff that is not worthy of honor. I don't know about you, but most—even if I look at myself—I say there are things that I do where Daddy's not worthy of honor. But the Bible says that we should honor our parents. Here, Ham does not honor his parents at all. He kind of throws his dad under the bus and makes him to look like a fool.

### **Generational Consequences**

And so, he says, "Cursed be who?" What does it say? "Cursed be Canaan." Who is Canaan? Canaan is the son. Canaan is Ham's son. Did Noah just speak a curse upon his grandson? First of all, why not speak a

curse upon Ham? And then second of all, was it really a curse? I mean, is this some kind of voodoo thing? No, that's not what's happening at all.

Here's what's happening in this passage. Ham is a nightmare. Ham is a jerk. Ham dishonors his own parents. Ham is making a fool. Ham is not the kind of guy that should be a parent at all. And so what Noah is saying is, "Your son, Canaan, is already cursed because you're his dad." Your son's already cursed. He's not putting a curse on him; he's just speaking the reality that your son is going to turn out a nightmare because you're a nightmare.

And we can say in this that Noah has some problems, doesn't he? Obviously, Noah's got some issues. Some of this maybe is the result of Noah, but he's got two other sons that are growing up and they're honoring. And so we look at this and we've got to think to ourselves, what in the world is going on? And what does this tell us about God? What does this tell us about family?

It goes on and it says, "He also said, 'Blessed be the Lord, the God of Shem and let Canaan be his servant. May God enlarge Japheth and let him dwell in the tents of Shem and let Canaan be his servant.'" So, what did he say there? He said Ham is cursed, but the other sons are blessed. And so I take this and I look at this and I say, "You know what? I want my son—I have one son—I want him to be blessed." I want my son to grow up and have privilege from God. I want him to grow up to have a good job. I want him to grow up and find a really good woman. That's pretty important if you're a dude, because if you pick the wrong chick, your life's going to be a nightmare. If you're a dad and your daughter picks the wrong guy to marry, forget about it. It's going to be really rough for you.

## **Two Types of Families**

And so, when we talk about blessing and cursing, we're talking about: how can we pass blessing on to the next generation? Now in the Bible, there's two types of families. If you go back to the Exodus, remember we talked about the Exodus. The 10th plague, what happened? There were families where the angel of death is coming and so we're going to put the blood on our door. "As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord." We will do what God says. We will cover our house in the blood of Jesus so that there is safety and the blessing of God upon us as a house.

There were other people, though—a whole lot of people—that rejected the instruction of God. God said put the blood on and they said, "No, we're not going to do what God wants us to do. We're going to do what we want to do." And as a result of that, it turned good for some, right? Those with their homes covered, they're protected. They're set apart. They're blessed. The ones who obeyed God are blessed and they're becoming a blessing to their kids. Generations after that end up being blessed. And those that rejected, what did they receive? They received death. They received loss. They received grief. They received judgment.

And some of you look at your family and you say, "I feel cursed." If you're honest with yourself, you look at your life and you say, "Man, there are some curses that are on me that I just kind of inherited." "Man, I'm just like my dad in this way," or "I'm just like my mom in this way." And I know that that thing that I do in my life isn't what God wanted, but I chose it because that's what I saw. And so, you feel cursed because you're in a marriage where you're super unhappy because your parents had a really unhappy marriage. They didn't really love each other and they didn't support each other. You know, my parents had a kind of

a crappy marriage and so I'm kind of destined to have that kind of marriage myself, or I was cursed to divorce my spouse because I grew up in a family that was broken. I grew up in a family where nobody stuck it out even through the hard times.

I was cursed to abusive relationships because my dad abused my mom. And that's how I learned to be a man. I learned to be a man that picks on women. Or you feel cursed as sexual sin because things like pornography and adultery and sex before marriage were handed to you like an inheritance. Or you feel the curse of disrespectful children because you saw your parents come home after Thanksgiving and they just bad-mouthed their parents over and over. They had no respect for their parents, and you feel you're the same way. Or I feel cursed to poverty, and it's not because you're lazy, it's because nobody taught you discipline. Nobody taught you budgeting. Nobody taught you how to work hard. Nobody told you work ethic. Everybody just assumed you were entitled to everything everybody else had. You never learned how to handle money the way God tells us to handle money.

### **Breaking the Cycle**

And here's why this is all important: bad habits and lifestyles get passed down. But we are still responsible. So, there are things in my life that my dad did that I watched. I could grow up exactly the same. I could do the same thing. I got saved when I was 14. God got a hold of my life when I was 14 and all of a sudden I had a father in God that pointed a different way. There were men in the church that I looked at and said, "They are different. Not everything is like this. That guy lives differently and they're pretty happy."

So, what I want to do is I just want to show you a couple things to tell you that you are not cursed. But you have inherited some things down the line. And now what's happening is you're not just getting things from your parents; you're getting things and you're learning from social media. You're learning from sitcoms. You're learning from all the other people that are around you.

Let me give you some good news. There were two sons and they were very respectful of their father. They walked in backwards. They were the type of people that I think Noah wanted his sons to be. They end up being blessed for generations and generations—so blessed that Shem will be the one that Jesus Christ comes from.

Now I want to show you a chart. It's called the Adams Time Chart. And if you can follow along, you'll see Noah right in the middle. He's in green. He has three sons. You'll see along the top it'll say Japheth, that's the oldest son. Right below him you'll see one that says Shem. Shem is the next oldest. And then on the bottom right under that is Ham. You'll see a big black line goes up and down—that's the flood. Now you'll notice that none of the kids had any kids until after the flood. It's just the three boys and their wives. But after the flood's done, I don't know—all of a sudden the juices got flowing and they decided, "Let's pump out some kids and start populating the world."

But I want you to look at Ham's descendants. Kush is the oldest. Those little red lines that go up and down, those are 10-year intervals. When I looked at this, this was fascinating to me. The very first son was Kush. One, two, three—that's when Canaan is born. Notice that Canaan isn't born until about 30 years after the flood. Why is it that Ham is the nightmare? Why is it that Ham is cursed? Why didn't he say "blessed" or "cursed" to all my grandkids? Why just this one? Because if you look at the others, they're

older. They're probably not even in the house anymore. The only one that has a kid still in the house is Ham, and that's Canaan. Canaan is the only one. And so he looks and says he's cursed because he lives with you. He's learning from you. He's learning how to be a jerk. He's learning how to not be honorable.

## **The Power of Repentance**

The first thing is that Ham had more than one son. The second thing I'll let you know is that generational curses can be broken. If you feel like you grew up and there's generational curses, that there are things that you inherited that are bad, they can be broken. Let me read you something from **Ezekiel 18:19: *Yet you say, "Why should not the son suffer for the iniquity of the father?" When the son has done what is just and right, and has been careful to observe all my statutes, he shall surely live. The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not suffer the iniquity of the father, nor the father suffer for the iniquity of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself (Ezekiel 18:19-20).***

What that means is that I'm not really receiving judgment for what my parents do, even though I might have inherited it. I inherited these patterns. I inherited these struggles. You're like, "Well, you know, I kind of got that from my dad." Well, your curse is not based on the fact that your dad did it; it's based on the fact that you're doing it.

***But if a wicked person turns away from all his sins that he has committed and keeps all my statutes and does what is right and just, he shall surely live; he shall not die (Ezekiel 18:21).*** So here's the point: Generational curses can be broken, and they're broken when someone in the family line repents. So, your great-great-great grandfather was a womanizer, and then your grandfather, and then your dad. There's a tendency for us to be like our parents, right? But you can repent and stop that cycle from going on to the next generation.

Don't think about yourself right now. Think about the kid that's sitting next to you. Think about the kid that lives in your house. Was what was good enough for me good enough for you? Think about the kids that are in our church. Do you want to pass on your life? You might be living a sinful life, not living according to God—you're sleeping with your boyfriend, you've got three kids with different people. This doesn't seem like what family is supposed to be like, but this is what I've always known. Is there something better? Yes.

You can stop the curse. And it will only stop—it might not stop in the next generation, it might not stop in the generation after that. Your grandkids, your great grandkids could end up in the same situation if you don't today repent and say, "Enough is enough. As for me and my house, we will follow the Lord."

## **Modeling a New Way**

We will serve the Lord. You look in the rearview mirror as you're driving home from church, and you see little Susie and Bobby in the back seat. You're thinking, "I've tried to hide as much of my pain and as much of my hurt as I can from my kid. I'm going to tell my kid to do differently than me, but I'm going to model the way I've always lived." You can't do it. It won't work. You'll never break the curse that way.

If you want the next generation to be different, there is only one way that happens: you have to repent and change. You have to say, "As for me and my house at this moment, we are going to decide to serve the Lord. We will obey him now." You sit down with your kids, and you say, "You know what, enough's enough.

I didn't do it right. I learned a lot of that from Grandma and Grandpa, but I don't want that to be you. And so, for your sake, because I love you and because I love God, I'm going to repent. I'm going to change."

And I don't think I have the power to do it. I don't have the power to be what I want to be. But it starts with saying, "God, I love you. I know that you have something better for me. I've seen families that are healthy and I want that. So, God, I'm going to turn over my actions, turn over my way of living. I'm going to repent." That's what it means to repent: to turn away from living these things and to follow you.

Luckily for us, God gives us the Holy Spirit. God Himself comes and helps us. So, we're able to do things—I've seen this in my own life—I'm able to do things I could never do on my own. Fight temptations I could never fight on my own. Reconcile in ways that I never thought could be reconciled. But God does it because God's good and He's great.

### **Setting the Standard**

I was on vacation last week and I saw several cousins. One of my cousins is a godly man, really good man. He loves his wife; he treats his wife great. A guy that you would respect quite a bit. Anyway, his daughter had a boyfriend. And so, they started, you know how you when you're at something, you start jabbing at him. "I bet you gave him a lot of trouble. I bet it's because of you—you had the gun behind you." He goes, "No, no, no, we liked him. We really liked him a lot." But she broke up with him because she just didn't see him going anywhere. He didn't measure up to what the standard was that she had.

And I sat there on the drive back and I thought, "Man, that is way to go. You did awesome." You didn't have to take a gun out. What you did is you got up every day, and you loved your wife with all your heart and with all your soul and all your mind. You were a great husband. You were a great father. You did all the things so that when she starts dating, she says, "I'm not going to settle for a boy when my dad's a man. I'm not going to settle for someone that's not going to provide for me or love me as much as my dad."

Some of you younger guys, some of you dads that are here, take this to heart. You deserve as a woman to have a man that will honor you and love you and take care of you. And if a guy comes that doesn't match that, wait for him to show up. Guys, if you want a good, holy, godly woman, then you need to step up now. You need to live an honorable life. Learn how to treat your mother with respect. Learn how to treat women with respect. Say, "I'm preparing to be the person that is worthy of that woman."

For some of you, you can look a generation ahead of you and see that person. Many of us can't. So you say, "Well, then how do I know what that looks like?" You need to find those men. You need to find those women. You're going to find them worshipping the Lord God and being faithful.

### **Conclusion and Prayer**

Where are you at in all this? It's really important for us if we're going to grow as a church, if we're going to be healthy, if we're going to change our community for the gospel of Christ. It can't just be because we talk about it. It has to be because when you show up in this place, you are surrounded by what you want to be like. "I want to be a good father. I want to be a good wife." And I see it when I come to this place.

After Easter, we're going to go for a while and we're going to talk about what a biblical family looks like because the media and the world have lied to you. They haven't told you the truth about what family looks

like. We're going to get into that—what it means to be a great dad, what it means to be a great husband. I'm not talking about perfection. I'm talking about what it means to raise a family and to do it in reality and in honesty and in transparency, but to strive after that goal which God's put before us.

I want us to pray for a minute. Some of you might be thinking, "Man, what the heck did he just say?" That's okay. If you didn't get it, come back and we'll talk some more. Maybe you want to sit down with me—book an appointment. We'll sit down and talk.

We're going to close this way. Some of you might be saying to yourself, "Yes, I want to pass this on." Some of you aren't a train wreck—you're good parents. But you're like, "I'm afraid this will pass on to my son. I'm afraid of this relationship that I'm in and that this might cause damage." I want you to just as we're here, I want you to pray and say, "Because I am in Christ, the cycle stops with me." We don't care about the generations before and what they did unless they were a good example. Because I'm in Christ, the cycle stops with me.

God, I thank you for just this time that we could be honest with each other. There's probably nobody in this room that doesn't have this to some extent—things that we inherited from our mom or from our dad or from the neighborhood we grew up in. God, but we feel like our life didn't go the way we wanted it to go. And we think it's too late because we're already in the middle of our life now. We recognize that saying "I hope you do better than me" is not good enough. We need to stop the cycle now.

And the only way to stop this cycle is for us to take responsibility for the sin that we have in our life. God in Jesus' name, if it's you, just where you are in the silence, I want you to say to God: "Because I'm in Christ, the cycle stops with me. The cycle stops with me. As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord."

God, I believe that I have done it wrong. There's evidence all around me. I'm not responsible for everything that's happening in my house, but I have done some things wrong. But God, I believe that all the wrong that I've done, you died on the cross to take away the penalty of all that wrong. And so, I trust you. Forgive me for my sins. Forgive me for the wrong that I've done. And in your love, help me to be a great mom. Help me to be a great dad. Transform us here. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen. God bless you.