

## Descendants

When we get this right, it will result in a healthy church in every community, both those communities that exist now and those that will develop in generations to come. This is not a bandage covering a problem or helping to heal a single wound, it is rather a change in our manner of ministry. This will cause us to naturally reproduce until there is a healthy church in every community. This is, at the very least, a vaccine against one generation, one location churches, and disconnected unhealthy churches. If I may so bold; this is the silver bullet!

This what God commanded in the garden and to the church: multiply!

**TEXT:** Mal 4:6

*He will turn the hearts of the fathers to their children, and the hearts of the children to their fathers; or else I will come and strike the land with a curse."*

NIV

The very last verse in the Old Testament gives us the key to the effectiveness of the church that would be started when the New Testament comes into being.

That key is not in the systems, the laws or the rules that come with the New Covenant, but rather in the relationship between parents and their children and children with their parents, especially the fathers! And it's not just in a structural relationship but from the heart. A loving, caring, sacrificing heart toward the next generation is the key to evangelism and revival!

I believe it becomes even clearer when we understand the New Testament revelation of Spiritual fathers and sons; spiritual descendants. When the heart of a spiritual father is right with his spiritual descendant and the spiritual child has a right heart toward the father the legacy of the father is good and the future of the descendant and the church is good.

**When the heart is wrong on either end of the relationship the ministry of the church will be weakened as it was in the time of Eli and his sons.**

**The breakdown in the relationship between one generation of priest and the next opened the door that allowed;**

- **the word of God was rare, and**

- In that time the lamp went out,
- Ichabod was written on the door of the church.
- The Ark was stolen.
- The Lord came and struck the land with a curse.

**If we do** not make this a priority, the lack of heart connection between the Spiritual Fathers and their descendants, we to will see the lamp go out, the word will become rare, the church will be taken from us, and our nation will be cursed.

The answer is in our hands and it is not simply about our prophetic preaching but is also about how we love and connect to the generations on both sides of us!

**Rom 9:29** says;

*It is just as Isaiah said previously:*

*"Unless the Lord Almighty  
had left us descendants,  
we would have become like Sodom,  
we would have been like Gomorrah."*

NIV

The key to completion of the revelation and our God given dream and the fulfillment of scripture is all bound up in those who descend from us. If we do not make them a priority we will become like Sodom and Gomorrah.

**The default setting of the church is to become like Sodom. If Spiritual Fathers** used their descendants to build their ministries rather than their ministries to build their descendants each descending generation will descend further back into the world and its ways!

**We must recognize that a God size dream always requires more than one generation!**

- Moses' ministry and God's purpose continued because he had Joshua.
- Elijah's ministry and God's purpose continued because he had and Elisha.
- David's temple, God's temple, was built because he had passed the dream to Solomon.

**Every God** size dream requires more than one generation!

Acts 15:36-41

<sup>36</sup> Sometime later Paul said to Barnabas, "Let us go back and visit the brothers in all the towns where we preached the word of the Lord and see how they are doing." <sup>37</sup> Barnabas wanted to take John, also called Mark, with them, <sup>38</sup> but Paul did not think it wise to take him, because he had deserted them in Pamphylia and had not continued with them in the work. <sup>39</sup> They had such a sharp disagreement that they parted company. Barnabas took Mark and sailed for Cyprus, <sup>40</sup> but Paul chose Silas and left, commended by the brothers to the grace of the Lord. <sup>41</sup> He went through Syria and Cilicia, strengthening the churches.

NIV

The shifts recorded in Acts:

- A. First Jesus to the Holy Spirit then...
- B. The Apostles followed their disciples to Samaria
- C. The gospel went from the Jews to the Gentiles
- D. Focus went from Peter and John to Paul and Barnabas
- E. From Paul and Barnabas to their Spiritual descendants

Barnabas and Paul in Jerusalem

Paul and Barnabas in Antioch

Paul and Barnabas as first Missionaries

Paul and Barnabas split over John Mark when **Barnabas chose his Spiritual descendant over ministry with Paul**. "Such sharp disagreement that they parted company."

**Luke not only shows us the value Barnabas put on Mark but immediately introduces Timothy as Paul's Spiritual son in the faith. This is the shift!**

In the end Paul wants Mark on his team because the fatherly heart felt concern and training of Barnabas turned a called but unproductive young man from being a liability to an asset.

- How many young believers have been discarded because they were not yet an asset?
- How many could have had a different end if some spiritual father or mother had a heart for them rather just wanted to use them as an asset?

**I believe that Old Men should dream dreams that require spiritual descendants to catch the vision!**

We need to dream about;

- what we are directly responsible for,
- what needs to happen around us, and about
- our fellow ministers.
- We need to dream that can't be fulfilled in our life time and without descendants.

We need to produce descendants on three levels:

1. **To inherit our ministry** (Jerusalem)

2 Cor 12:14

<sup>14</sup> *Now I am ready to visit you for the third time, and I will not be a burden to you, because what I want is not your possessions but you. After all, children should not have to save up for their parents, but parents for their children.*

NIV

- We entrust it to them, we do not sell it to them!
2. **To produce their own ministry from us and beyond us** (Judea/Samaria)

Seed enables the plant to go to new places without being uprooted!

3. **To rescue ministry of someone who has no sons of their own (Boaz)**

**Our Inheritance:** Our dream should be larger than our limitations. Our lid should become the launching pad for our descendant. Moses, Elijah, David!

**Many churches are in trouble or have already closed because there was no spiritual descendant to continue its legacy and fulfill its purpose, or because the Father sold it rather than bequeathed it to a descendant.**

We have been taught to leave the church to itself to find its own new pastor. However this is not the way of the New Testament. The New Testament church allowed, even expected, the founding, apostolic pastor to rise up a descendant to build on what he had started. It should not be the district or the deacons who provide the next pastor it should be the present pastor with the blessing of deacons and the district. If the pastor is making a mistake they should have the right to intervene on behalf of the Lord, but no pastor who is without sin or failure should leave the flock unprotected; he should make sure the next pastor is firmly in place! When there is not a strong man to guard the house the enemy will come in!

## Do you have your next in the bull pen?

Can they finish the dream God gave you?

### Our other Descendants: Gen 17:20-22

*20 And as for Ishmael, I have heard you: I will surely bless him; I will make him fruitful and will greatly increase his numbers. He will be the father of twelve rulers, and I will make him into a great nation. 21 But my covenant I will establish with Isaac, whom Sarah will bear to you by this time next year." 22 When he had finished speaking with Abraham, God went up from him.*

His brother Isaac had the responsibility of finishing what his daddy started, and like his father had to pass through a time of baroness. And even though Isaac got the inheritance he only produced two sons during his life time.

Ishmael on the other did not have to worry with his father's purpose and was able to produce the number of offspring that Isaac only dream of.

### Kinsman Redeemers: Boaz

#### Ruth 4:4

*I thought I should bring the matter to your attention and suggest that you buy it in the presence of these seated here and in the presence of the elders of my people. If you will redeem it, do so. But if you<sup>a</sup> will not, tell me, so I will know. For no one has the right to do it except you, and I am next in line."*

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Unredeemed churches produce the end of a lineage; redemption saves the assets and continues the legacy of the childless pastor (Samuel).

- Judah's eldest son was judged by God and cut off without a descendant.
- His brother was unwilling to birth a child that would get the inheritance he wanted. So God cut him off also.
- Tamar tricked Judah into sleeping with her so there would be a descendant: The greatest of which would be Jesus!

We need Spiritual descendants that will redeem what was built by others but is about to be lost.

Descendants come from those born again under our ministry and those we **adopt** because that were abandoned by their true spiritual parent.

**2 Sam 18:18**

*<sup>18</sup> During his lifetime Absalom had taken a pillar and erected it in the King's Valley as a monument to himself, for he thought, "I have no son to carry on the memory of my name." He named the pillar after himself, and it is called Absalom's Monument to this day.*

**Absalom had children** but did not have a heart for them or his father, so, in the end he had only a building to carry on his legacy.

We need to not only produce spiritual children but become a father to them and be willing to adopt the children of the Absalom's of the world.

- Anyone can reproduce but it takes a real man to be a dad!

Close: **Every believer should have Spiritual descendants!!**