

March 14, 2021
La Jolla Christian Fellowship
GENESIS : Behind The Curtain
Episode 8 : ALL IN THE FAMILY
Pastor Adam Stadtmiller

Genesis 9:18-29

¹⁸ The sons of Noah who came out of the ark were Shem, Ham and Japheth. (Ham was the father of Canaan.) ¹⁹ These were the three sons of Noah, and from them came the people who were scattered over the whole earth. ²⁰ Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. ²¹ When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. ²² Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. ²³ But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked. ²⁴ When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, ²⁵ he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers." ²⁶ He also said, "Praise be to the LORD, the God of Shem! May Canaan be the slave of Shem ²⁷ May God extend Japheth's territory; may Japheth live in the tents of Shem, and may Canaan be the slave of Japheth." ²⁸ After the flood Noah lived 350 years. ²⁹ Noah lived a total of 950 years, and then he died.

It all begins with the family: Noah's family portrayed the hallmarks of the lion's share of dysfunctional families. These were: **Addiction, Shame, Wrath, Unforgiveness.**

Addiction is a hugely complex and destructive disease, and its impact can be simply devastating. All too often, lives and families can be shattered by it. Kate Middleton

1) Addiction:

- a) **Vs. 20** *Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. ²¹ When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent.*
 - i) **Proverbs 20:1** *Wine is a mocker and beer a brawler; whoever is led astray by them is not wise.*
- b) **Vs. 24** *When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him.*
 - i) **Ephesians 4:17b-19** *You must no longer live as the Gentiles do, in the futility of their thinking. They are darkened in their understanding and separated from the life of God because of the ignorance that is in them due to the hardening of their hearts. Having lost all sensitivity, they have given themselves over to sensuality so as to indulge in every kind of impurity, with a continual lust for more.*

- 2) **Shame: Vs. 23** *But Shem and Japheth took a garment and laid it across their shoulders; then they walked in backward and covered their father's naked body. Their faces were turned the other way so that they would not see their father naked*
- a) Definition of shame: a condition of humiliating disgrace or disrepute.
- i) **Revelation 3:18** *I counsel you to buy from me gold refined in the fire, so you can become rich; and white clothes to wear, so you can cover your shameful nakedness; and salve to put on your eyes, so you can see.*
- ii) **Romans 9:33** *As it is written: "See, I lay in Zion a stone that causes people to stumble and a rock that makes them fall, and the one who believes in Him will never be put to shame."*
- 3) **Wrath: Vs. 24** *When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, Noah's immediate reaction was a wrath and a curse that would have catastrophic results for not only his line going forward, but the entire history of the world.*
- 4) **Unforgiveness: Vs. 25** *He said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers."*
- a) There is no biblical record of a reconciliation of family for Noah. The same was true of the Adamic family.

Questions for small groups:

1. What part of this story is most interesting to you? Did Noah do the right thing? What should he have done?
2. Families have cultures that bring life or death. Noah's family seems to have had some major flaws accompanying his original righteousness. What are the results of having a family steeped in addiction, unforgiveness, anger and shame?
3. What are some of the strongest building blocks for families? Example trust, love, etc. Give examples of how those are manifested in the family?
4. Noah reacted in wrath when finding out that he had been assaulted. Was his reaction appropriate? Was there another way?
5. Shame is a result of the fall of man. What are some ways that shame can lure us into bondage emotionally?