

Sunday, October 22, 2023

Title: Restoration of Generations

Grant Hill, Garden Gathering, 10/22/23

Welcome, everyone. There are some new faces here. If I have not met you, I am Grant Hill, Associate Pastor for the Garden Gathering, and it is my honor to be here. I want to build on the word this morning from last week's message.

II Kings 3

Jeremiah 17:5-10

Last week Brandy talked about a story in Second Kings where they had faith that though they saw no clouds in the sky, no dew or rain, yet the Lord filled the wilderness with water so much that there was almost a lake. It was not just a stream or creek. It was an in filling from God who had told them to dig ditches and He would fill them. The water of the Lord is the restoration. It is also the beginning of something new that makes right the past and brings you a promise of the future. *Jesus is that well of living water.* When it springs forth, it heals your past and gives you the promise of the future. That is the good news of the Lord.

He is the one that restores the former desolations in your life. He does not just fix them, but gives you an inheritance that starts today. He is the "testator of His own will," it says in the New Testament. That means that there is an inheritance that is released when somebody has died. That is the natural way. You do not get your inheritance until someone has passed. Jesus has passed. He was crucified on a cross because of our sin. We nailed Him to the cross. We killed Jesus. But, He turned around and forgave us. He said, "Forgive them, they do not know what they are doing. I forgive them." Those that will believe on that sacrifice, receive the inheritance of the Father's will. Because, the Father sent His Son, not to condemn us but to save us. He sent His Son, not to point fingers at us and say, "You are a sinner." He sent Him to save us from that sin, by putting His blood that atones for it upon it. That means, buying it back and redeeming it.

You have been lost, but now you can be found in the Father. I say the Father, because He is a family God. He created the family. He wants families. The way that it looks in Heaven is how it looks in the home. That is supposed to be the example. The Father, the Bridegroom and the Bride all together. Intimacy creates the children. When our hearts, as the Bride of Christ, truly open up and are vulnerable to the Father, that intimacy births the sons of the living God, you and us. That is us. He is the Father. He is the Father, and He wants a family. He is not building a business. He is building a family that does the Kingdom of Heaven, and the inheritance of this kingdom gets passed to its children. But somebody has died. His name is Jesus. Now, He can be the testator of His own will. He can give out *His inheritance* now. You can step into that inheritance now, not just when you die, because Jesus has already died for you.

You do not have to taste death. He tasted it for you. So, the inheritance is released. But, many children do not want it now. Many children say, "I will wait for later." I will go through the testing now, because I think that is what you are telling me to do. There are trials and tribulations, but they are not from God's hand to curse you or condemn you. Trials and tribulations from the enemy want to take away your inheritance now. God wants you to take your inheritance, now. We sing, "Why not right now?"

Luke 6:20-23 NKJV

This is the Beatitudes according to Luke. Who is He lifting His eyes to, the lost or the saved? The saved, His children, His people, His disciples, and those that say, "I will follow you wherever you go." He is looking upon His disciples, and He says, "Blessed are you poor in spirit." When you feel like you have to have more. When you feel like you are impoverished in your spirit, saying, "There has to be more. I am not content with my spiritual state." You can be filled up full with the Holy Ghost and still be hungry for more in the spirit. You can still have an impoverished hunger for God when you have been filled up five minutes ago. "Blessed are you for yours is the Kingdom of God," which is the inheritance. Verse 21, "Blessed are you who hunger now, for you shall be filled." Are you hungering now? You shall be filled. "Blessed are you who weep." Now, that is intercession and a spiritual weeping. This is the spiritual side. These are those that understand the spiritual realm as it says in John 3:12. If you do not understand spiritually weeping? How can I describe it to you? But, if those who weep now really understand it, "you shall laugh."

Verse 22-23, "Blessed are you when men hate you and when they exclude you." They exclude you from their awesome parties. They exclude you from football games. They exclude you, because you are a Christian. They cannot be seen around you, probably do not want to know you, and probably do not want to see you. That is just the simple things. But, when they exclude you from buying and selling at the end of time, or when they say you will not have this or you shall die, "blessed are you." When they "revile you and cast out your name as evil, for the Son of Man's sake," saying they are doing it in Jesus's name, "Rejoice in that day and leap for joy! For indeed your reward is great in Heaven. For in like manner, their fathers did to the prophets."

Verse 24-26, "But, woe to you who are rich," in the natural now, "for you have received your consolation," today. "Woe to you who are full," that means you are spiritually content today, "for you shall hunger." "Woe to you who shall laugh, now." This is talking about the physical side and not having understanding for the spiritual. "For you shall mourn and weep." "Woe to you when all men speak well of you." You want it. That is the fear of man that is satisfying your soul, not the truth of what is happening in the Spirit. "For so did their fathers to the false prophets."

Jeremiah 17:5-6

In other words, it is a lonely place. It is not filled with the family of God. If you have ever driven to California, you will go past places that are just parched land without even a shrub. Yet, somebody, somewhere, sometime, one day decided they were going to live right there, and there is a house in the middle of that land. Someone's great granddaddy said, "This is my land." When I read this verse, I think of those people out in the middle of Arizona in a house in the desert. It seems so lonely, and it seems like a hard *task* working by the strength of your own hand. But, I praise the Lord. I hope that they are all saved and they know Jesus. He is sustaining them through it all. But this is what I think of as "a shrub in the in salt land." All by itself, and not connected to the family of God. Because, "you are going to do it your own way."

Jeremiah 17:7-8

We understand this here in Texas. All our trees in West Texas are found by the creeks or rivers. The forest of trees in West Texas are right by the creeks, or right by the rivers. There is an oak grove or a pecan grove right by the water. It's the truth.

Jeremiah 17:9-10

Keep this in mind as we are building. I want you to think about what we just read.

Luke 6:43-49

Read this, knowing that Jesus is the living Word. He is the Word in the flesh. Look at what comes out of His heart right here. If you read in Jeremiah 17, “Jesus is the Word in the flesh, then here you just read it again backwards. Jesus is a Preacher. He changed it up in front of you, and you did not know it, so you could hear it again. Some of you heard the word of the Lord the first time, and it struck your heart. Some of you heard it this time, and it struck you. He flipped it. The last verse that we read was, “out of the heart, it is deceitfully wicked, and nobody knows it.” The first thing out of this is, “that you will know the fruit by what comes out of their heart.” The Lord searches the heart, and I know it by what comes out of your mouth.

The second thing that you should read in this is about somebody whose roots dug deep. The second verse that we read was about the rivers and the trees that are dug deep and the roots go deep along the rivers. They will not fear when the year of drought comes. In the same way, this person who has dug deep and built a foundation, will not fear when the flood comes. Did you see it? The last thing was, “cursed is the man who trusts in his own strength,” and cursed is the man who tries to build his house, his own way.

Jesus is the Word in the flesh. He is the Preacher who gives you the word. He is the Preacher that preaches. He is the Teacher that teaches. He is the Pastor that is overseeing the flock, so you will hear and give adherence to the word. Some of you relate to being a tree or a shrub in the desert. Some of you relate to being a builder who is building a house. But, out of the abundance of your heart, your mouth will speak.

Luke 6:49

What is the ruin that comes? Did you see that?

God is a Father who is building a house. We talk about this all the time, but He is building His name sake for the sake of His name. When in the natural we have someone who has built up a name for himself. That is his namesake. You can see it on all of our buildings around here, right? “Junell Center, Stephens Arena, Chadbourne Street, Bryant Boulevard, those are all the namesake of someone. These are people's names, Beauregard and Harris. You build a name sake for those that have done or have settled or founded something that we consider to be noteworthy.

God is asking His family to build up His namesake, so that His glory is known throughout the entire world. You are a part of the family of God. All that you do is building up God's namesake for His house, the House of the Lord. But, we can see that we are flesh. We are dirt in sometimes unnatural houses. The ruin can come. But, God is one that takes even the old ruins and makes them new. How do we know this?

Isaiah 61:1-7

It is all relevant, but we want to start at the beginning. “The Spirit of the Lord is upon me because the Lord has anointed me to preach good tidings to the poor.” This is the Father manifesting Himself for you, to give you life and life abundantly. “He has sent me to heal the brokenhearted.” Here is your inheritance. “To proclaim liberty to the captives, the opening of the prison to those who are bound, to proclaim the acceptable year of the Lord.” That is also known as the jubilee year of the Lord. “The day of vengeance of our God, to comfort all who mourn, to console those who mourn in Zion, to give them beauty for ashes, the oil of joy for mourning, and the garment of praise for the spirit of heaviness, that they may be called trees of righteousness, the planting of the Lord that He may be glorified.”

That is the inheritance that we talked about. He is the testator of His will today. This is what you are hungry for today. This is what we want to see happen today in your life, in your children's

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life, in your parent's life, and your grandparents' life, and your aunts and uncles' life. This is what we want to see happen in your workplace and in those around you. Did you see it? This is the exchange of your old life for the inheritance in Christ Jesus. The exchange of your old ways for the way of the Kingdom of God, which you now entered. When those who call upon the name of the Lord make Him, Savior and Master. You hear it? Do you see it? Yes, "to heal the brokenhearted, to set at liberty the captives, the opening of the prison to those who are bound, and to proclaim the jubilee year of the Lord." You also had the vengeance of God.

"He will give you the oil of joy for morning. Praise as a garment that you wear, and He takes the spirit of heaviness off your shoulders. That you may be the tree of righteousness, planted by the river. You will not fear in the year of drought. Because, it is the planting of the Lord that His namesake may be glorified." These that have been redeemed, and that have the inheritance. "They shall rebuild the old ruins." The "house of that man came to great ruin," but, He says, "You are going to rebuild your ruins." You are going to rebuild. "They shall raise up the former desolations, and they shall repair the ruined cities. The desolation of many generations."

Isaiah 61:7

This is what I know that the Lord is talking about today. These "old ruins" are your households. It is your family. "The former desolations of generations." We see it in our own family and our own house. But, God looks at your generations. He looks at my generations. He says, "I am going to take you out of that house. I am going to put you in my house, and I am not just going to keep that and *leave* it a mess. But, it is like the water that filled up the desert. The water that fills up the wilderness of our lives, the desolate places of our lives, brings restoration of the years and a promise for the future. It floods the past, and makes a new pasture to go into.

Do you understand what is happening here? The "old ruin of desolation," that you might see in your life, is the curse upon a curse. It is the second and third generations, that we read about in Exodus. It is the iniquity that we have a propensity to continue. "My daddy did this. I did this. My mama did this. I did this. Oh, that is Grandma Harriet showing up in my son." We are born of dirt. We are born of flesh, and "the heart is deceitfully wicked, who can know it?" Jeremiah 17 said, "Out of the heart, the mouth speaks." You might see Grandma Harriet there, but "God says, that is the former generation of desolation." We are going to repent. We are going to turn it, and we are going to flood it with living water. We are going to plant for my namesake, a new generation. It does not go past that. That is the deliverance of our God.

That is what deliverance is. That is the ministry of reconciliation, that you are now an ambassador of. In Corinthians, it says, "you are an ambassador of this ministry of reconciliation." The Lord is looking at our families, and where we have lost hope. Take heart where you have lost hope. Wherever you lost hope, take heart and dig the ditch. Be expectant. Sometimes we try to pour the water on our relatives. Sometimes we try to dump the water on those that we long for them to come into the house of God. But, there is a new way to prepare. There is a new way to soften the ground. There is a new way to tell them. There is a new way to plow, and it is in the Spirit and in prayer.

If you are going to dig a ditch, you are on your knees, you are close to it. That is the truth. Right? Anybody who has dug a ditch knows how close you are to the earth. Closer than you want to be. But, not when it is in the Spirit. If you dig the ditch, the former desolations can be filled full with the living God. That is what God wants us to see. That is what God wants us to see. Part of the devil's scheme is to cause ruin in marriages and families through divorce. Taking away our inheritance in our family realm. This is mainly the desolations and ruins that we repair. We are called to see repair in Isaiah 61.

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Divorce is the number one way that America has turned from God. The devil didn't attack through the media first. He attacked the family first. Because, if you can unravel the family, that is the epitome. The family is the metaphor and that is the analogy of what it looks like in Heaven, the Father and His sons, male and female. The Son and His Bride and the family of God. Many decades ago, we saw it in our country. The family was what was hit first. Now we can see the desolations of the generations. Where there is no family unit and what it looks like. How do you know God then? How do you know what God's Kingdom looks like if you do not know it in your own house?

We constantly labor with the saints to show them who the Father is and who their identity is as a son and a daughter in the house of God. Because, that identity has been lost in the natural, and that is where it has to start in the House of the Lord. That is why one of the first things that you are taught in this place is "Who you are in Christ." Who are you? Who are you? One of the first is, "I am a child of God. I am a child of God. A daughter is always a daughter, and a son will always be a son in the House of the Lord."

The Lord wants to restore our families. He always will. He always will, because that is where His namesake can truly grow. That is where His name shake can truly shine. I want you to hear this from the Lord. Say, "Lord, I am going to hear it from you, and not from the devil." Yes.

Malachi 2:10

"Have we not all one Father?" He is actually speaking to the Jewish people here. He is speaking to the priests of the House of the Lord. This is the same as when it says, "Jesus looked towards His disciples and spoke to them." Malachi is not speaking to the law. He is actually speaking to the family of God, the ministers of the House of the Lord, the heads of the house. His first question is, "are we not all of the Father? Are we not all born of Him. We are children of God."

Malachi 2:11-17

This is the covenant of the Holy Spirit today from the New Testament. What is this institution, marriage and the family unit? All the way back here, 400 years before Jesus? Yes, it is the same yesterday, today, and forever. The devil does not change his tactics either. It's marriage. It's the wedding covenant, that He is talking about. It's the family. It's the institution of the House. He loves it. He is seeing what is happening in the Spirit. He has married the daughter of a foreign god in the spiritual realm. The profane thing and the abomination is that you "gave your heart to another. You did not hunger for me. You became satisfied in the spirit, and just like Solomon you gave your heart to a foreign god. You were satisfied with my spirit. You were satisfied with my presence. You did not hunger or have that impoverished desire for more now.

You gave your heart to another, and in the spirit, I see it as you have betrayed me. "My name is Jealous," it says in Exodus, and "I am a jealous God. When your eyes look to another, and when your heart is given to another, the ring on my finger burns." It burns, because "I have been betrothed by you to me," it says in Hosea. "I have betrothed you to me. I have been keeping you for my Son. What are you doing giving your heart to another?" When that happens, it causes a "die vision." A "die vision," which eventually leads to a divorce.

It was happening in the heart of Israel, and then it manifested in the flesh and in the physical. In the spirit that always happens first, before it shows up in the flesh. That is why most divorces, when it comes down to this place, it is because the heart has already been there months or years before. The heart has already been divided, before you come to that physical point. You have to go and heal all the way back to there. It is usually not the thing that blew up yesterday, that is why we are divorcing. It is because of the root of it. God does not long for this. He loves the House. He loves marriage. He loves the institution of it.

Malachi 2:12

It's different if you didn't understand. It's different if you are naive. It's different if Grant Hill hasn't stood up in front of you and told you what it is. But, if you knew and you did it on purpose, that is the betrayal. That is the wound in the heart of God. You blatantly did this. You are a minister in the house of the Lord. You have read my word, and you know what it says. "Out of your heart, your mouth is speaking." "Those who say, 'Lord, Lord, but do not do what I say.'"

Luke 6

Malachi 2:13-14

The intimate place, He sees the heart. I am the Lord who sees your heart. I know. Right?

Jeremiah 17:9-10

"I see the intentions of your heart. The heart is deceitfully wicked. I see your most intimate place of your heart, between one and another whom you have dealt treacherously. Yet, she is your companion and your wife by covenant."

I want you to know what treacherous means. Treacherous is "a violation of allegiance or a violation of faith, or a violation of confidence." That is all it takes. God sees where there has been a violation in the house. That is often what has wounded us. Wounds from our fathers and our mothers, where we have felt like there has been a violation of our faith in them, our trust, or who they are supposed to be. Even a violation of allegiance by saying, "I will never be like that man. I will never be like that woman." That treacherous spirit that comes to divide. They might have deserved it. But, that is where God says there is forgiveness.

True forgiveness is Jesus on the cross, looking at us who deserved what He had to go through, and we did not get it. He looked at us and said, "I forgive you. You did not know what you were doing. Even if you did, I forgive you." That is true forgiveness. We know and we teach this. It is not acknowledging that what somebody did is right, especially if they have wronged you. But, you acknowledge to God that this was a wrongdoing that has happened to me by my mom, by my dad, by my grandfather, that I choose to say that you have the judgment and not me. I know that they have wronged me, but I forgive them. It is not mine to make right. But, it will be His to make right. I let go and it is His to finish. That is true forgiveness.

That is the root of it. That is what this country needs the most. That is what your families need most. That level of forgiveness. That level of the cross, and of truly understanding how much Jesus forgave us. If you really know how much He forgave you, then you can really, truly forgive those around you to the place where it heals the soul, heals the family, and the generations of desolations is restored. That is the only thing that will actually do this. We realize that. There is no counseling in the world that will fix our families in America. We are past the point of there being any restoration, nonetheless a future in the families of America. We have to have the forgiveness of Jesus. Truly go there and pull it all up. Cleanse it, wash it, and it will burst forth living water that will restore the old and bring the new. He loves the institution of His family and marriage.

Malachi 2:15

I use this in weddings ceremonies. I do not know if many people do, but I do. The bride and the groom, He made them one by His Spirit. When it is done before the Lord and you get married before God, He seals it. He seals it. It's His holy institution. When you set yourself to do it before the Lord. He is there, and He puts His seal on it. Why did He make them one as the Father and the Son and the Bride are one? He did this for godly offspring.

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There is a lie the devil likes to *tell you*, that if you are brought up in the church, then you have to leave it, so you can experience the world. Then come back and really know what God has done for you. That is such a lie. The Lord looks at the family and says, "Praise God, I will have godly offspring." When we raise up children in the House of the Lord, we have to fight because the opposite way is religion. You have to fight the works mentality of how to know God, and make it of the Spirit. I think we understand that in this House. We have to be of the Holy Ghost, so that our children encounter the Spirit. They are not just told, "this is how you go to church and this is what you do." That will drive them away from the way of the Lord. That is not actually the way of the Lord. That is the way of a religion. But, when you have that hunger, when you have that "I am impoverished" attitude, your children see it now. Your children experience it now, and "taste and see that the Lord is good." Do not fall for the lie that your children have to have a time away from God to know Him more. It is such a lie.

Psalm 27

All the days, from the baby that was just born and all the way through, what a testimony! Anything that the Lord has asked you to do, you will receive a reward. If God asks you not to sleep, He will give you sleep, "pressed down, shaken together, running over into your lap." If He asks you not to eat, He will give you food, "pressed down, shaken together, running over." If you give to God, He will give to you. If we give our children to the Lord, there is such a blessing that will fall upon you. You will not just see in this life, but in the life and the life and life to come. That blessing goes to the thousands of generations.

Abraham is *seeing* now, that because He gave up to God trying to have a child. He gave up, and said, "I will give it up. It's in your hands. I give it to you." Now, he has so many children by the Spirit of God, it is more than the sand on the seashore. Truth! How much more anything that I have seen that I gave up in my life? I see such an abundance of it now. If I gave it up in high school. I see so much of it. You know what I'm saying? Like giving unto the Lord. The giving of digging a ditch, will fill it more than you thought you could fill.

Malachi 2:15

He seeks godly offspring. "Therefore take heed to your spirit. That none of you deal treacherously with the wife of his youth." Remember, that is a spiritual place. God is calling out the spirit, where in your heart, you are trying to have a violation of allegiance, a violation of faith or a violation of confidence between one another. This isn't just between husband and wife. This can be between father and son, a daughter and son, a daughter and mother. That treacherous spirit that causes the divide. It is easy when it is rampant in our country, because we have had desolations of the habit of, "this is how you do it. This is what it looks like. This is what it is." But, if the Lord would come and bring the oil of gladness for that spirit of heaviness, the inheritance starts now. The inheritance starts now. The forgiveness can start today. If you hunger for it, then let's stand and pray. If you have need of prayer or ministry, we will be up here. We bless you.

Holy Spirit, we say yes and amen. That you are the one who restores the old ruins and makes the former desolations prosperous again, filled with life and joy. We will have a double portion in this life is what it says. In your land is what it says in Isaiah 61. I thank you that you are the Preacher who brings good tidings, that heals, that delivers, that saves, that blesses, that anoints our head with oil, and sets us free in the year of our Lord. We honor it. In Jesus' name we pray, amen.