

What's On Your Tree?

I read this story that reflects the downward spiral of a young man caught in the deadly quagmire of a generational curse.

His name was Robert. You could say he was born to die young... was destined for failure and that his future was bleak at best. His parents divorced when He was just a little boy.

Robert's father worked for many years as a pimp – he was notorious for abusing his women and when Robert was just eight his father committed suicide.

When Robert was 14 years old, he started his own street gang, which quickly became known for its vicious violence and horrendous crimes of hatred and brutality. At 16 years old, Robert was sentenced to **2 years in prison** for committing three drive-by shootings and armed robbery.

The day he left for prison, his mother was brutally murdered by a rival street gang seeking revenge. Three-and-a-half- months later, his stepfather was gunned down by that same street gang.

While In prison, Robert was introduced to ruthless criminals even worse than himself and his bent toward fighting and violence constantly got him in trouble.

Someone decided to research Robert's family tree... and they discovered that Robert came from *Generations* of folks who practiced destructive and violent behavior. Robert not only repeated this destructive behavior, but he took it to a whole new level.

But the good news is that unlike most, whose heritage hands them a ticking time-bomb of destructive behavior that was passed down to them through their family trees, Robert discovered a way to break the generational curse that hung over his life.

At the age of 20, Robert heard the life-changing message of Jesus Christ! At the age of 20, He invited Jesus Christ to come into his life.

- He heard the **revolutionary news** that you don't have to stay the way you are.
- He heard that there is a **power that can cancel your past...**
- Power that can **conquer your problems,**
- He heard that the Holy Spirit can change your personality.

Robert embraced that power and with the power of Jesus in his life, he was able to cut himself off from his hereditary past and God gave him a new spiritual heritage, a new spiritual identity, and a new spiritual family tree.

Perhaps right now someone is thinking, **WHAT IN THE WORLD HAS THAT TO DO WITH ME?"**

I want you to know that everybody in here today came from... and is influenced & affected by a family tree... Your OWN family tree! And some of you looking at me right now are still dealing with the fruit of your family tree, You're dealing today with some negative stuff that grew in your family and you inherited from your mum, your dad, your grandparents and your great grandparents...and even your great, great grandparents...!!

Let me ask **you** that question this morning, **WHAT'S ON YOUR TREE?** WHAT DID YOU BRING IN HERE WITH YOU THIS MORNING?

Think about it... because all of us have some negative stuff in us that was passed down to us by our family tree... but instead of recognising it and owning up to it, we try to hide and deny those negative characteristics and qualities that we inherited. We even excuse by saying... 'It's just the way it is in my family...

Every family tree is loaded and laden with generational 'Fruit'... SO...WHAT'S ON YOUR TREE? WHAT LEGACY OF SIN EXISTS IN YOUR FAMILY? Don't forget.... This is stuff that people in your family's past got involved with....Alcoholism? Drug abuse? Sexual promiscuity? Is it physical or verbal abuse? Is it a welfare mentality? What legacy of sin has blighted & cursed the generations in your family?

We know that Names have meaning...

My name.. Robert means 'Famed, bright; shining.' they say People with this name have a deep inner desire to inspire others in a higher cause, and to share their own strongly held views on spiritual matters.

1 Chronicles 4:9-10 Hybrid

*There was a man named **Jabez** who was more honorable than any of his brothers. His mother had named him Jabez. She had said, "I was in a lot of pain when he was born."*

***He was the one** who prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do, and keep me from all trouble and pain!" And God granted him his request.*

Jabez had to deal with a generational curse in his life, Even worse... that word curse over him was his NAME! The good news is that Jabez shows all of us how you and I can use the Power of Prayer to break these generational curses from our lives.

I want us to see THE CAUSE OF JABEZ'S CURSE

When Jabez was born, his mother gave him a name that would forever memorialize and identify him... Now we all know that every baby is born into this world accompanied by a certain amount of pain any mother can tell you that.. but something happened with the birth of Jabez that went far beyond the pain of natural childbirth.

Usually after a baby is born, the joy of having a new baby overtakes the pain of the birth process – but that didn't happen with Jabez... Somehow the mother of Jabez experienced something so terrible... so acute and so devastating that she memorialized that painful time & experience in the name of her son,

She called him JABEZ.... **'PAIN'** "HE CAUSES PAIN" or "HE IS PAIN."

Can you imagine what Jabez had to deal with growing up as a boy? Every other child in the area had normal, natural names, but his name was PAIN... Every time somebody called his name it was a reminder that his mum never *really* wanted him. He got teased and picked on at every day because of his name. Nobody ever wanted to be best friends with PAIN.

You see, in Bible times, when parents gave their children names, the name served as a prophecy of what they would become in the future... And therein lies the problem. The Bible doesn't explicitly **call** it a curse, but what it **describes** is a curse.

Now, let's ask... **What Are Some of the Curses on Your Tree?**

Some of you looking at me right now inherited spirit of anger... a bad temper... you really struggle with it!, maybe its a critical spirit.. Always picking holes in something... it's never ever right or good enough.

Some of you looking me right now inherited a spirit of fear and anxiety... you get worried about all sorts of things... somebody sneezing might give you pneumonia

Somebody looking at me right now inherited a lying, cheating, and stealing spirit.

Some of you looking at me right now inherited a spirit of arrogance, stuck-up snootiness and pride,

Somebody else inherited a gossiping and slandering tongue that's never got a good word to say about other people... or churches.

Somebody looking at me right now, may have inherited a 'Flirty' spirit from your family's past,

Somebody else in this place this morning inherited a spirit of overeating... you just don't seem able to resist the chocs & cakes....

You see... What Jabez inherited was a WORD CURSE; it was a curse of words or a curse stemming from spoken words of condemnation.

Do you remember when Jesus walked by a fig tree one day, & saw that the tree wasn't producing any fruit... the Bible says that Jesus cursed the tree with a 'word' curse and it withered and died.

What happened in nature, is the same thing can happen in your life and in my life. We can speak word curses into people lives that literally become self-fulfilling prophecies. We can speak words of condemnation into people's lives that can cause their dreams to dry up and their aspirations to shrivel up and die.

Somebody looking at me right now is still dealing with, living with...the sting of a word curse that was spoken over their lives by somebody, a parent, grandparent, some school teacher, or some co-worker on our job and ever since you've been dealing with the effects of that word curse.

When they told you that...

YOU'LL NEVER BE ANY GOOD...

YOU'RE A CRAZY FOOL

YOU'RE JUST LIKE YOUR NO- GOOD DAD.

YOU GONNA BE Just like....

That's what Jabez's mum passed on to him, it was a word curse.

And now we get Really Serious... You know what I've found over the years...Sadly not everybody who comes in the church wants to see the church grow and flourish... there are some folks who have put word curses on this church. I once heard somebody say of this church... *'It will never Grow!'*

There are some people who don't want to see the church engage in evangelism and win the lost to Christ. There are some folks that come into this church who speak word curses over the church's efforts to grow and attract more people to the kingdom of God. I've heard them said!

Jabez's mum put a word curse on him by labeling him with negative name, and all of us, in one way or another, could be doing the same... or we could be dealing with the curse and the sting of negative labels that were passed on to us... often unwittingly, without realizing... by people we loved and respected.

What's your word curse? What is the word curse that hangs over your life? Is it something mum or dad said? Is it something some friend said or some supervisor or co-worker said, What's your word curse? **What's on Your Tree?**

The good news today is **You don't have to stay the way you are!** The good news today is that every generational curse on your life **can** be broken by the power of Jesus Christ.

What I want you to see today is that **prayer brought deliverance from the curse over Jabez's life...** The generational curse that rested on the life of Jabez was **BROKEN** when Jabez went to the Lord in Prayer.

- Jabez prayed that **God would bless him indeed**, that word BLESS means that Jabez wanted God to shower down his goodness on his life, Jabez prayed that God would shower down his favor on his life...
- Jabez prayed that **God would enlarge his territory...** Jabez prayed that God would give him more land, more territory, more influence, more ministry, Jabez looked at his life and he realized that where he was not where he thought God wanted to be and so he prayed that the Lord would give him more than he was currently experiencing.
- Jabez prayed that **God's hand of Blessing would be on his life**, Jabez understood that the one thing that distinguishes an 'ordinary life' from an 'extraordinary life' is the hand of God resting on that life. **Jabez prayed that his life would be touched by the hand of God...** and not the words of others.
- **Jabez prayed that God would keep him from harm** that it might not pain him... He knew he need God's divine protection.

JABEZ CALLED ON THE GOD OF ISRAEL... "Jabez realized that the only way to break the generational curse that rested upon his life was to call on the God of Israel. In other words, Jabez looked at his life, realized that his mother had named him pain and had spoken a curse on his life, and he decided to take his generational curse to the only One who was able to break the curse from his life – **Jabez decided to take it to the Lord in prayer.**

And the good news for you and me this morning is that the same God who broke the curse on Jabez's life is the same God who can break every curse in your Life! Today!

You don't have to live with these generational words that become curses in your life! You don't have to Repeat the legacy of sin that exists in your family.

Your father's sin-problems don't have to be your sin-problems! Your ancestors junk doesn't have to be your junk! Just because your dad was a rolling stone and a player that chased multiple women doesn't mean you've got to be one. Just because mum was an alcoholic that don't mean you've got to be one.

When you come to Jesus, JESUS BREAKS THE CURSE ON YOUR LIFE! JESUS CHRIST IS READY, WILLING AND ABLE TO BREAK EVERY CURSE IN YOUR LIFE! Right Here... Right Now...Today.

If you want the curses in your life to be broken, if you want the legacy of sin that you picked from your parents and grandparents to be broken, if you want to be delivered from the bondages of sin and Satan, then **You've got to do exactly what Jabez did...** you've got to humble yourself before God, admit that you don't have it all together, admit that you need His help... and you've got to call on the name of the Lord in prayer to deliver you and to set you free!

Calling on the name of the Lord means that you invite God into your situation. **Here's How.**

The Cure For Jabez's Curse

Recognise & Repent... Of this specific sin (Name it!) it is not about Blaming someone else. It doesn't matter if it was your great grandma reading tea-leaves, clairvoyance or your own 'gift' of doing similar things, Or dad drinking too much, Hitting his wife abandoning the family... Maybe it was the porno mags you sneaked into a secret place in you room to enjoy at night... Whatever it is It offends God...so Repent.

Renounce / Run - Tell God you want nothing more to do with that and then Run... distance yourself from that behaviour, habit, friend, place.... And stay away from it! Stop Blaming your Family you don't have to be like that!

If you are a Christian we can no longer blame who we are and the decisions that we make on our family or our upbringing. We cannot use our family background as an excuse to stay the way we are because the Holy Spirit who lives in us now gives us the power we need to break any cycle or stronghold that has been deposited into our family.

Receive God's forgiveness through Jesus' death, shed blood & resurrection. **Revel in the freedom** He gives us... and **Thank Him for it.**

Get Accountability James says to *"confess your sins to one another so that you can be healed."* Even though we have the power to break any cycle we must also remember that because of what we were exposed to we will always be more strongly tempted in this area than others, which is why we need people to keep us accountable.

1 Chron 4:10 *Jabez... prayed to the God of Israel, "Oh, that You would bless me indeed and expand my territory! Please be with me in all that I do.... and keep me from all trouble and pain!"*
And God GRANTED him his request.

If you would like me or one oth the other Leaders to pray with you and for after the meeting please come & see us at the front. **You can see your chains** Broken today

Song: Chains Are Broken (Nothing's Gonna Hold Me Back)