

Nate Young
Multiplication Effect of Sin & Blessing

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Series: Made to Multiply
Genesis 4:16-6:8

BIG IDEA – MULTIPLICATION HAPPENS IN THE FAMILY

Two Cities Church, he's right. I love you guys. I love this church. Lexington, I love you. I see you. It's a joy and an honor for me to preach to you all semiannually or however often it ends up being. Truly it is. I preach to you as one of you. This is how this goes for me sometimes. Just a little peek behind the curtain.

I'll be at church, minding my own business, and someone on staff will walk up to me and be like, "Hey, Nate, I see on the calendar you're preaching in October. I'm excited about it." I'm like, "Oh? I'm preaching in October? Pastor Kyle hasn't mentioned anything to me." They're like, "Well, I thought I saw it. Okay." Whatever. We keep it to ourselves and move on a couple of weeks.

Kyle pulls me aside. He's like, "Hey, Nate, October 20, what are you doing?" I'm like, "I already know, dude. I'm preaching. Leah told me." In all seriousness, Kyle gives me a ton of heads-up, which I appreciate, because I need it. I don't know how he does this every week, truly. It's unbelievable. Don't you guys love your pastor, by the way? Don't we love our pastor? I know we love him more than that. Kyle, we love you, man.

Kyle and I were talking about this weekend back in July. He said, "I'm going to give you two choices. We'll be in Genesis, the Multiply Initiative. You can either do Noah and the flood..." I'm like, "Okay. I know that one." "...or you can do this kind of obscure passage *before* Noah and the flood, kind of between Cain and Noah. It's about Lamech and Enoch and the Nephilim and increased corruption on the earth." I was like, "Yeah, give me that second one. That sounds pretty intense." I can be kind of intense.

Anyway, that's where we find ourselves today. So, if you have your Bibles, go ahead and turn to or type to Genesis, chapter 4. That's where we find ourselves today. We

have this 1,500-year period between Cain and Noah and the flood, and the lion's share of the actual words of our text today are two genealogies. I had four months to work on this, so I'm going to read all of it, and I will pronounce every name perfectly. Just kidding. I'm not going to do that, I promise.

Here's the big idea today with these two genealogies. We're in the Multiply Initiative. *Multiplication happens in the family.* That's the big idea. It's not just there are more human units that numerically multiplication happens, which is true, but in the family values multiply. Character multiplies in the family. We'll see that today. Parents imprint their values on their kids and their values multiply.

This is so obvious, but I'll prove it to you. Where do most of the Mormons in the world come from? Christian families? Muslim families? No. They come from Utah from Mormon families. You're like, "Okay. Duh. Obviously, that makes sense." But truly, we don't give enough credit to the family for values multiplication.

We're all scared of the school system. It's like, "Thank God the school system isn't the primary agent." Right? The government? No, no, no. The family is still the primary agent for values multiplication. We're going to see it today. Let's start reading. We'll be in chapter 4. Let's start in verse 16.

"Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden. Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch."

First of all, it's very fun and interesting to read the Bible as if it's actually true, which I believe it is. I mean, it *is* actually true, but if you do this, it brings up all sorts of questions, particularly an obscure passage like this. It's like, "Okay. Cain is a wanderer now." We kind of talked about that last week. It kind of makes sense. But he has a wife? Who is *that* exactly? Don't think about that too hard. And he populated a city? With which people exactly?

Look. There are all sorts of possible answers to these questions, but it's important anytime we read our Bibles, especially with an obscure text, to remember something. It's a principle for reading our Bibles. Very important. *The Bible tells you what God wants you to know.* God is not primarily interested in answering all of the questions that you're sitting there in 2024 with your limited perspective curious about. Why? Because it doesn't help him get his point across.

There *is* a point, and the point is not to explain to us who Cain's wife is. In this text, the primary point is that values multiply in the family, but unfortunately, what we're going to see today from Cain to the flood is sinful values get passed down over 1,500 years to the point where God won't tolerate it anymore. Sin multiplies.

Guys, I'm just going to warn you right off the bat. It's not a feel-good sermon today. I mean, how could it be? Sin multiplying... Sin is why you die. It's like, "That's intense." Well, that's true. Sin is why Jesus died. If I tried to shoehorn this into a feel-good sermon, that would be malpractice of me. So buckle up. What we are going to see today are five steps to the multiplication of sin. We're going to see how that happens. It bears out in the text here.

Okay. So, what are the steps? How does that happen? Well, sin starts with step one. It starts in the birthplace. And where is sin born? The heart. Step one is *heart*. Sin is born in the heart. Let's keep talking about Cain. Where was Cain's sin born? His thought life. He was sitting there, boiling with jealousy at his brother, angry at God for not accepting his half-hearted offering.

It had mastered his heart before it ever went public in his hands, but eventually... It always happens. Sin is crouching, and then *Boom!* it pounces. It goes to step two, heart to *hands*. Eventually, Cain's sin went public through his capital sinful activity of murdering his brother. That's pretty public. Right?

Look. There's no such thing as secret sin. You're like, "Oh, I thought there was." Not ultimately. Unrepented of sin never stays secret. Sin multiplies. That's what happens. That's how it happens. There are two options. You either crush the head of sin or it ends up crushing you. You either repent of it or it ends up dragging you under.

Then, as that happens and as it goes public, it starts to affect all kinds of people, and it goes through the first three steps pretty quickly...heart to hands to, step three, *home*. Typically, the people it affects first are the people closest to you. That's what happened with Cain. Let's talk about his home life.

Let's talk about his brother Abel. Abel is dead. His sin affected Abel, obviously. Let's talk about Mom and Dad, Adam and Eve. Think about that. Cain's sin steals two of their kids from them. Abel, obviously, but also Cain, because part of the consequences of his sin is that he's a wanderer now. We talked about that last week. Mom and Dad have to be so brokenhearted.

Who else does it affect? Let's read this. Let's read verse 16 again. ***"Then Cain went away from the presence of the LORD and settled in the land of Nod, east of Eden."*** So, Cain goes away from the presence of the Lord. That's what sin is. A good definition of *sin* is going away from the presence of God. That's what it does. Look at who he drags with him as he does this. ***"Cain knew his wife..."***

It says it quickly, but it's big. Your sin affects your spouse. We've all seen some version of this. Man, there are so many applications here. We've all seen the guy who says he's a Christian. Maybe he is, maybe he isn't. I don't know. But he's not

interested in going to church with his wife anymore, and he doesn't want to go with her to Community Group anymore.

He doesn't want to talk with her about spiritual things, and the wife is tired. That wife is tired. She's tired of trying to drag him to church unsuccessfully and making excuses to her friends at Community Group for why he's not there again. She's ultimately left with this terrible choice. "Am I resolved to keep going by myself or do I just stop?" Sometimes she does the second, and that's terrible. The man who leaves the presence of the Lord and drags his wife with him.

So much of this sermon today is counter-vision, so let me try to sprinkle in some vision where I can. What would it look like, conversely, to, instead of dragging her away from the presence of the Lord, seek his presence together? Here's an idea. What would it look like for you to invite her on one of our mission trips next year?

That might be hard to figure out logistically, but oh my goodness! Couldn't that jump-start the spiritual formation in your marriage? Sharing the gospel with your spouse in another country for a week? That would be amazing. Or let's just start small. What would it look like to pray with her tonight, to pray *for* her tonight? Instead of leaving the presence of the Lord, what would it look like to seek his presence together?

That's not what Cain does. Cain goes away from the presence of the Lord, takes his wife with him, and then he settles down. And what do they start doing? They start having kids. We're about to have a genealogy here. His sin gets passed down as step four: his *heritage*. Heart to hands to home, and then it becomes his heritage. This is generational sin.

All right. I didn't know where to put this in, but let's go ahead and talk about it here. This is why it doesn't make any practical sense for Christians to date non-Christians. There are only two ultimate options when you date somebody. Option one: you break up. No fun. Painful option.

Things nobody says: "Oh, I fell in love with him, and after two and a half years he broke my heart. It was so amazing." Nobody says that. That's a painful option every time. The only other option, though, is you end up getting married. If you end up getting married, young people, you are going to realize it's not so much about how cute she is anymore or how he makes you feel. It starts to become a little bit more about values multiplication.

In the example we just talked about, Mom wants the kids in church on the weekend. Dad couldn't care less about that, but he's super animated about Junior's peak performance on his travel basketball team. Hard deal for Mom. You do not want to spend a lifetime fighting your spouse on what values to impart to your kids. I mean,

it's already so hard to row the boat against the current of the culture. To be rowing against your spouse too? Almost impossible.

So, we have to slow down here for a second. We're going to settle down in step four and talk about generational sin for a little bit. You're like, "Slow down? We're in the second verse." I know. We'll get through it all, I promise. I'm not reading all of the names. Okay. Sin is more generational than our individualistic culture would have us believe. It is.

Back then, you saw yourself as a link in a chain. I mean, we have the chain here. We're about to read some of it. You didn't even make sense apart from your family. Your whole identity was tied to your family. Nowadays, we're so individualistic. It's "Follow your dreams. You're self-realized, self-actualized. Graduate college. Hike across Europe by yourself to find yourself," whatever that means. But that's not true. You *are* a link in a chain, whether you realize it or not.

This is interesting. We're kind of the therapeutic generation. We're rediscovering therapy. This is a primary result of our rediscovery of therapy: finding out how the generations before us helped to shape us, looking through the rearview mirror and seeing how generational sin took root and shaped the way we are.

That's a very helpful thing to do to look through the rearview mirror, but can we look through the windshield and see it? As far as you're concerned, that's far more important than the rearview mirror. Why? Because more links are coming. You're not the last link. For many of you, they're already here. Can we look through the windshield and see what we might be passing down as a heritage to our kids? I want to help us do this. What does this look like?

Some of you get this report (I think it comes on Sunday; I don't look at it very much, but people tell me it's Sunday) on your phone that tells you how much time you spent on certain apps. You see, "Oh my goodness. I spent 15 hours again this week on social media." That report...not for all of us, but for some of us...might as well say, "I spent 15 hours coveting, caring way too much what people thought about me, and kind of lying so that they think better of me." That's what that report should say.

That's bad enough in itself, but can you look through the windshield and see what might be happening? This would be a sad day, I promise, if in 20 years you go and visit your grandkids and you see that your daughter can't even pay attention to your granddaughter because she's too addicted to her phone, and when she does, she's just trying to take a photo of her to post. She learned that from somewhere. Right? Generational sin. That's what it looks like.

Here's another one. Some of you are like, "Why is my 25-year-old grown son just whining and acting like a victim all the time?" I don't know. Possibly, he learned it by listening to you talk about your job for 20 years. That's what it looks like. I'm just trying to help us see. It's helpful to look through the windshield and see what might be happening.

I've kind of made the point before we've seen it bear out in the text, so let's read about it. Let's read about how this happens with Cain. Let's go to verse 17. ***"Cain knew his wife, and she conceived and bore Enoch. When he built a city, he called the name of the city after the name of his son, Enoch."*** To Enoch was born some guy, and that guy fathered another guy, and that guy fathered another guy who fathered Lamech. (I completely lied. I didn't practice at all. But I do have Lamech. I said "Lamech.")

So, what happens here? Cain leaves the presence of the Lord. They start having kids. We can't really establish that there's a legacy of generational sin here yet, because there's not a lot of detail about the kids. Then we get to this really interesting guy Lamech. Let's read about him. Verse 19: "He took two wives." That doesn't sound like a great idea. First recorded polygamist.

"The name of the one was Adah, and the name of the other Zillah. Adah bore Jabal..." We're starting to get some details. Okay. ***"...he was the father of those who dwell in tents and have livestock."*** Okay. He looks successful in his field somehow. ***"His brother's name was Jubal; he was the father of all those who play the lyre and pipe."*** Wow. This guy is like an influential figure in the arts. He's like Jay-Z. That's pretty cool. One of his kids is Jay-Z. Very cool.

"Zillah also bore Tubal-cain; he was the forger of all instruments of bronze and iron." This is technological advancement. This kid is an inventor. He has Jay-Z and Elon Musk for kids. That's pretty cool. Here's the thing. You can be a successful man with successful kids and also simultaneously be a failure at the things that matter. Let's keep reading.

Verse 23: ***"Lamech said to his wives..."*** This is so ridiculous. ***"Adah and Zillah, hear my voice; you wives of Lamech..."*** Who talks like this? ***"...listen to what I say: I have killed a man for wounding me, a young man for striking me. If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."*** Whoa. Okay.

Let's talk about this for a second. Imagine this scene. This guy is the worst. He writes a song. He sits his multiple wives down to scream this song at them about how he murdered somebody. The song is definitely Parental Advisory, like, "not safe for the little ears" song. "Don't let your kids listen to Lamech. It's explicit." I mean, this is unbelievable.

By the way, where it says a *young man* here, another translation for that could be *adolescent* or *boy*, so he's screaming at his wives about how he killed a kid. This is unbelievable. Just think about this home. Think about that marriage. Does it sound like a safe place to bring up your husband's blind spots? Nope. Those wives are not talking in that home. Think about those kids. They're successful out in the workplace, but do they want to come home for Thanksgiving or Christmas? No, they do not.

The point I'm trying to make is that it's generational sin. Can we really say that Lamech's sin is connected to Cain? I don't even have to make an assumption. Lamech says it. Verse 24: **"If Cain's revenge is sevenfold, then Lamech's is seventy-sevenfold."** He's giving Great-Great-Great-Granddad credit for it. Lamech is five generations later, hundreds of years later, but Cain has successfully passed down his personal value of vengeance. It has happened.

I want us to see a couple of things here about how sin multiplies generationally. First, it takes zero effort. You don't have to be super-duper intentional to multiply your real values. Your kids just observe them. Your real values are caught, not taught. Think about Cain. Do you think he had to sit his kids down and say, "Hey, guys, listen up. If somebody is bothering you, eliminate them"?

Do you think he had to have that conversation with his kids? No, but they got the message. At least Lamech did five generations later. For us, most of us don't need to have another big conversation where we talk about our values. If there's a change that needs to happen, it's probably that we need to model something different.

Do you want your son to have your marriage? I hope so, but that's what he's going to get. Do you want your daughter to talk about her husband the way she sees you talk about yours? I hope so. What are we modeling? That's the point. So, first, your real values get passed down without much effort.

The second thing is sin's potency is multiplying across generations. We see this with Lamech's "seventy times seven" comment. I mean, it's the whole point of his song. He's like, "You think Cain is the most vindictive person ever? No. I'm him. I'm the GOAT." That's the whole point of his song. He's trying to be more vindictive than Great-Great-Great-Granddad. This is so interesting.

If parents tolerate sinful behavior, it encourages the kids to do so, and typically even more boldly. Why? Well, typically, the parents have an afflicted conscience as they are tolerating it, but Junior looks at Dad, and he's like, "Must be fine." He does the same thing without an afflicted conscience, and the potency multiplies.

Typically, kids want to surpass their parents, especially boys, especially men. So the potency of sin increases across generations. With men, oftentimes, you see this with

career achievement. I want to talk about this, but I want to be nuanced as I do. Look. It's not wrong to achieve in your career. That is not what I'm saying here. It is not wrong to achieve. With most men, this is what it is. It's not so much the sin of *commission* as it is the sin of *omission*.

This is what it looks like. They respect you at the office. You know how to work hard and get a return at the office, but you haven't quite figured out how to do that at home yet. You don't know how to get the same respect at home. You have no category... You haven't even had the thought of "How do I do that at church?" Work hard and get a return... Never even occurred. Right? But you're all in at the office.

That makes sense, and there's no problem with that. There's no problem with being all in at the office, but here's the problem. You're an achiever in the visible world, but you're a box-checker everywhere else. That's the sinful part. Dad is a great businessman. He's pretty good at his golf game. Those are the two areas we saw him work hard and progress and achieve, but he's kind of a box-checker everywhere else. That's the sinful part.

That's bad enough in itself, but here's the real problem. The real problem is your kids are watching. They might not get it all right now, but when they get to college and early career, they are going to want to be like you and even surpass you at the things they see you succeed in to earn your respect.

So go for it. Be a provider. You need to be a provider. It's a massive part of leading your family. Most of you guys are doing a great job. Hear me say that. But there are some, if I'm being honest... You have provided more than enough for a dozen families materially, and your wife and kids are malnourished spiritually. At least as far as you're concerned they are.

Thank God for your wife. Thank God for our Kids ministry. I don't want to beat it too hard, but I was talking with our care pastor this week. And I'm not talking about fake people. These are real people. Most of you guys want to do the right thing. Here's the next step: career brake pedal. Your son who's struggling... Make some memories with him. Take him on vacation.

Please don't do this thing. Don't do the thing where it's like, "Hey, I've scheduled two days where I'm going to fix your life." Don't do that thing. I'm serious. People do this. Go make some memories with him. He needs to know Dad cares. He needs to know Dad loves him. That's what he needs. Stop throwing your resources at him and start throwing *yourself* at him.

So much of this sermon is counter-vision, so let me give you a vision, because...thank God...the principle works in the positive direction as well. Kids want to be like and

surpass their parents at the things they see them succeed in. Let me honor my dad for a second. He doesn't know I'm going to say this. I wish he was here. He's not here. He's watching online.

He's a great man. He worked hard. He achieved in the visible world. He's about to retire soon. (You are. Right, Dad? You're about to retire? I need some help with the grandkids. Okay? So please retire soon. I said it in front of a thousand people. You have to do it now.) He's had a great career, but he didn't simultaneously have the sin of omission when it came to significant things, spiritual things, invisible things.

He has been a lay elder at his church for the last three decades. I mean, think faithful, thankless work; free church staff. If I had time to tell you the stories... That church wouldn't exist without him, I promise. He steadfastly taught my brother and sister and me about the Lord. He loved my mom well.

I get the texts all the time. "Hey, Nathan." He calls me "Nathan," by the way. Everybody calls me "Nate," but Dad is like, "I named you. I'm calling you what I named you." I'm like, "Okay, Dad. Fair enough. You can do that. That's fine." Anyway, he texted me this morning. "Praying for your sermon." Great dad.

Here's the point. It's not a coincidence that my older brother is a missionary, my sister helps run our residency program at the church, and that I'm preaching this weekend. He didn't sit us down and say, "Be a missionary, run a residency, preach on the side," but his real values were caught and are multiplying.

Look, guys. You can do this. I don't want to preach too hard at you guys. You can do this. No matter what was passed down to you, you can be a link in a chain of blessing and redemption in your family. No matter what was passed down to you, by the grace of Jesus and the help of the Holy Spirit, in community, your home can be a place where you model and multiply forgiveness, where you model and multiply generosity, where you model and multiply repentance.

My goodness. You don't have to be perfect, but you do need to repent. Your kids need to see what that looks like. They need to see what Mom and Dad saying sorry looks like or else what's going to happen is you're going to unintentionally have an ecosystem where secret sin grows. If Mom and Dad don't repent, kids are like, "Oh my goodness. Shameful stuff has to stay hidden around this place." Like we talked about, secret sin doesn't stay secret. But you can model repentance.

All right. We have to continue the conversation. So, homework for this week. Think about these two questions. Talk about them in Community Group. "What do I need to start passing down? What do I need to stop passing down?" Talk about that in Community Group this week. I'm excited for your conversations. Young people, if you

don't have kids yet, someone is looking up to you. Same questions. "What do I need to start and stop passing down?"

Okay. This feels like the end. Cain has passed down sinful values. But it's actually not the end. Let's skip over to chapter 6. We're going to see the final step, the fifth step. Here's the whole process. Sin starts in the heart, goes to the hands, infects the home, gets passed down as a heritage, and then all humanity has gone to hell in a handbasket.

(Yeah, I want some credit for what I just did there. I just alliterated seven words in about five seconds. I think I might have set a record around here, which is saying something. Look. I know what you guys like around here. I go to church here too. We love that stuff. Right?)

In all seriousness, at the start of chapter 6, all of humanity is entirely corrupt. What does it look like? Chapter 6, verse 1: ***"When man began to multiply..."*** By the way, most scholars think there were 700 million people on the earth at this time, the time of the flood. ***"...on the face of the land and daughters were born to them, the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose."***

All right. A couple of things to notice about this corrupt humanity. What does it look like? First, notice the language. They *saw* and they *took*. It sounds a lot like Eve at the tree in the garden. She saw the fruit was pleasing and she took it. Seeing and taking. Immediate self-gratification. "Me now." That is the primary motivation for most sin. "Me now. I see. I take."

Think about the last time *you* sinned. You were probably thinking a super-elaborate thought like, "Me now." Right? Everybody has that thought down. Two-year-olds have that down. This is in complete contrast, by the way, to the mindset of Christ. Christ is "others later." Not like others next week but others forever, the eternal well-being of others.

Obviously, that's the ideal, but what if you just expanded "me now" out a little bit? Seriously. What if you just thought, "Me tomorrow morning" as you were considering pouring the fourth drink of the evening? "The headache I'll have tomorrow morning if I do this." That could keep you from some sin. Or what if you kept the "now" part but put someone else in there? "My wife now. My husband now. My brother or sister now. My mom and dad now." That could revolutionize your family.

Simple enough, but easier said than done. Actually, let's talk about this for a second. A lot of us, me included, have a hard time busting out of the "me now" mindset. Why is that? Well, I think a lot of times we believe this lie (it's a lie). "If I don't look out for

me right now, no one else will. I've got to look out for me or no one else is looking out for me." That's an American lie. It's not true.

What does the gospel have to say? The gospel says that Jesus Christ, at great cost to himself in the present, has already taken care of your most important needs forever. Forever is now and all of the "nows" you'll ever be in forever. If that gets into us, that starts to free the Christian to start thinking "others later" like Christ. Anyway, we start chapter 6. Everybody is thinking, "Me now" all the time. What else? Verse 2:

"...the sons of God saw that the daughters of man were attractive. And they took as their wives any they chose. Then the LORD said, 'My Spirit shall not abide in man forever, for he is flesh: his days shall be 120 years.' The Nephilim were on the earth in those days, and also afterward, when the sons of God came in to the daughters of man and they bore children to them. These were the mighty men who were of old, the men of renown."

All right. What is going on here? This has puzzled a lot of Genesis scholars for a long time. You know what? Pastor Kyle gave me four months to think about it. I think I figured it out. Just kidding. I actually do have some thoughts, but I'm not even going to share them with you. Why? Because we're going to apply the principle we talked about at the beginning: the Bible tells you what God wants you to know.

The main point is not for us to figure out who precisely the Nephilim are and what kind of children exactly are being had here. The main point of this (and it's a big point) is whatever is happening in this culture is sinful, sexual, and completely unrestrained. This culture is completely obsessed with sex. It's a sex-obsessed culture. Sound familiar to anybody?

Guys, we have a sex-obsessed culture, do we not? Sexual, sinful, completely unrestrained. I mean, I could preach a whole sermon on this. You'd be so exhausted by the end, but it would be malpractice if I didn't spend a minute on it here. Every day in our culture there are 68 million Internet searches for pornography. That's 25 percent of Internet searches. Sexual, sinful, no restraint.

These days, 70 percent of people live together before they get married...most. You're like, "What's the big deal about that? That's normal." No. Actually, it's sexual, sinful, and shows a lack of restraint. That's just what that is, but we've normalized it. We've baked it into the culture. We're on to new frontiers. Now it's transgenderism and LGBTQ+. We're trying to figure that out, and it's all getting baked in in real time.

Guys, our culture worships at the altar in front of the god of sex. True worshipers, like we talked about last week, come with sacrifices in hand. That's why we've had an

excess of 60 million abortions in the last 50 years. Those are sacrifices. It's not women's healthcare; it's a sacrifice to the god of sex. That's what it is.

You're like, "Okay. This is bothersome. Can we move on? I don't really like to hear about it. Can we not talk about it anymore?" Do you think I want to talk about this? I don't want to talk about this. It's not fun to talk about either. *You* try. It's hard. Do you know who else is bothered by it? God. He's bothered too. But guess what. Good news. He's not absent, he's not silent, and he's not amending his moral standards to keep up with the culture.

That's where we're going to finish today. We just spent 30 minutes talking about sin multiplying, but good news: God will respond. That's where we're finishing today. There's a little progression there too. Verse 5: ***"The LORD saw that the wickedness of man was great in the earth, and that every intention of the thoughts of his heart was only evil continually."***

What's the first thing God does? This is good news. God saw. God *sees*. Sin has total domain, and God is fully aware. Look. I preached hard at some of y'all today, I know. It's so hard to preach to a lot of people. Some of you are real victims of someone else's sin. Good news: God sees. He sees you. He knows. He'll fix it ultimately, completely. He sees it. He's going to do something about it. Some of y'all think you're getting away with something. Same. God sees.

The first thing he does is see. What else does he do? Verse 6: ***"And the LORD regretted that he had made man on the earth, and it grieved him to his heart. So the LORD said, 'I will blot out man whom I have created from the face of the land, man and animals and creeping things and birds of the heavens, for I am sorry that I have made them.'"***

The second thing he does is *feel* incredible sorrow and grief. I mean, look at the language...*regretted*, is *sorry*, is *grieved to his heart*. By the way, the word in the Hebrew for *grief to the heart* is only used 17 times in the Old Testament. It's a very interesting word to describe God, because it makes him seem very vulnerable. It's the same word used to describe how David felt when he lost his son Absalom in battle. The grief of a father losing a son in battle.

To make it even a little more vibrant... Have you all seen the movie *The Patriot*? It's a great movie. It's one of my favorite movies. Do you guys remember the scene where Mel Gibson comes down to Heath Ledger, Gabriel, his son, who's dying on the battlefield? He dies right in front of him. Do you guys remember this scene? Get that in your head. That's how God feels about sin. He is grieved by sin.

Actually, this is crazy. This is how he feels about non-Christians' sin. How much more the sin of those he purchased with the blood of his Son. Deep grief. Look, guys. This should be the primary motivation for the Christian to repent of sin and pursue holiness: the deep grief of the Father.

Some of us are caught in unrepentant sexual sin. I could give all of the practical reasons. You're sowing pain into your future. It's bad for you. You're ruining your future marriage, whatever else. But I would rather appeal to your heart for God than to your selfishness for your future. Your sin brings your Father incredible sorrow.

If you don't care at all about that part...I'm just going to say it...I don't understand how you could be a Christian. I mean, you might be, but I don't get it. I think if you're there you don't think he's grieving. I think that's how you got there. I think it went something like this: "Oh, God probably listened to the same podcast I did or read the same book that I did or has the same friends I do that approve of the exact opposite thing his revealed Word says he wants me to do."

I'm just telling you, based on the authority of that revealed Word, he's grieving. So, what to do when you realize this? Repent. It's simple. It's not easy, but it is simple. Turn from your sin to the Savior. Do it because you love him because he loved you first.

Okay. So, he sees and then he feels, and then he does a third thing, because he's still not getting a lot of people's attention. He *warns*. He does this in two places. He warns that a flood is coming. He does this with Enoch, and he does this with Noah, but Noah is next week, so let's talk about Enoch. We kind of skipped over this in chapter 5. Let's read about Enoch. Chapter 5, verse 21:

"When Enoch had lived 65 years, he fathered Methuselah. Enoch walked with God after he fathered Methuselah 300 years and had other sons and daughters. Thus all the days of Enoch were 365 years. Enoch walked with God, and he was not, for God took him."

Okay. I said he warned people, but we don't really see that there. All we see is that he walked with God, and then he was raptured. He didn't die. He was just raptured, which is interesting, but where do we see that he warned people? Enoch is one of those interesting guys we actually learn a little bit more about in the New Testament.

In the New Testament, in the book of Jude (another obscure passage), Jude tells us Enoch was a prophet who warned his generation of coming judgment. It's very interesting. How did he do that? Well, probably a lot of different ways, but one way in particular was in the naming of his son Methuselah. This is so interesting, guys.

Methuselah is a prophetic name. I'm going to tell you what it means, but I promise you this is the weirdest name you've ever heard in your life. It's weirder than Michael Jackson's son Blanket. I'm telling you this guy's name is so weird. The name *Methuselah* means "When he is dead it shall be sent." That's what his name means. Who in the world would name their kid When He Is Dead It Shall Be Sent?

What shall be sent, if this is a prophetic name? Well, if you do the math, because there's math in chapter 5 (there are numbers), the year Methuselah dies the flood comes. Very interesting. He's a walking warning. His name is a sermon. Think about this. We have to imagine this. This is so interesting.

Imagine Methuselah walking into a Starbucks and ordering his drink or whatever. The barista is like, "All right. Name for the order." Methuselah is like, "Oh, gosh. When I Die It Shall Be Sent." The barista is like, "Whoa, dude. Weird name. What's up with that name? That is a weird name."

He's like, "Well, you know, my dad was a prophet. You might have heard of him, because he didn't die. He was just raptured. At any rate, God told him that when I die he's going to judge the world, so that's what he named me." The barista is like, "Intense, man. Here's your coffee."

Why do I say that? Because as long as he was alive, he was preaching a sermon with his name, warning people that God was going to judge sin. So interesting. Okay. One more piece of trivia about Methuselah. This one you guys might know. Who's the oldest person to ever live? Methuselah. It's not just trivia. It's not trivial. It's not a coincidence. There's a massive truth to learn about God's response to sin.

Listen. This is very important. God warns, and then he *waits*. He warns that judgment is coming and then waits 969 years, actively warning the whole time through Methuselah's name. He is so patient. Are you kidding me? He's so patient. And the whole time, no one is paying attention and the world is going to hell.

They're just doing it. The world is getting so bad. It's getting crazy, and he's patient. He's waiting and waiting. And what is he also doing? He's not becoming a moral progressive. He's not like, "Hey, guys. You know what? I've had some time to think. Good job with sex. I didn't think of all the stuff you could do. I just want you to be happy. As long as you're happy." He's not doing that. No. He's grieving. His heart is breaking.

Then Noah shows up and starts building a boat. That's the second warning. Methuselah has a 968th birthday party, a 969th birthday party. Noah finishes the boat. He finishes the ark. Some animals start showing up. "What's going on here?"

Then Methuselah dies, and God keeps his promise. It's the last step in his response: *action*. God sends it.

He does two things. He sends a flood. It's a very sad day. It's not like a kid's Bible...happy Noah, happy animals hanging out of the side of the boat. It's a "700 million people aren't there anymore" flood. It's a sad day. But he does a second thing. Don't miss it. Don't miss the second thing. He provides an ark. He's like, "Hey, look. If anybody will take me seriously, get in here, and let's have new life on the other side." There were only eight people who took him seriously and did that. Only eight.

Okay. What does all of this mean for us? Jesus said to his disciples, talking about his second coming... He said an interesting thing. He said, "As the days of Noah were, so shall the coming of the Son of Man be." That's an interesting thing to say. How so? Well, Jesus promised to come again. This time it has been 2,000 years. Not just 969...2,000 years, and a lot of people, obviously, are not taking him very seriously.

Like, "Jesus? Are you kidding me? He died, and he's just dead. He didn't rise again. He's not capable. He's not even real." Nah, he's real, he's capable, he doesn't lie, he's not dead, and he's very patient. He's not slow, as some consider slowness, but he's patient, willing that none would perish.

Guys, a flood is coming, and you deserve it and I deserve it, just like the rest of mankind, but an ark has been provided. Not two arks, not ten arks...one ark. Let me be super clear. His name is Jesus Christ. He's like, "If you'll take me seriously, get in here, and let's have new life on the other side." The righteous wrath of the judgment of a perfect God will beat down on this ark, and we'll have new resurrection life on the other side.

Listen, guys. I know how this sounds. I understand how this sounds. I'm listening to it come out of my mouth. I'm not trying to be overly dramatic. I'm just trying to preach the Bible like it's actually true. Guys, wake up. Some of y'all, wake up. The wages of sin is death. That's clear. If there's no Savior, giant problem. But praise the Lord, the free gift of God...free to you, costly to him...is eternal life on the other side through Jesus Christ our Lord, our Savior, our ark. That's good news, man. That is the best news in the world.

Guys, you don't need a life coach. You don't need some good teaching. You don't need a little help. You need a Savior, and you have one if you'll take him seriously. Would you all bow your heads and close your eyes with me? I want to give us a minute to repent. Some of you guys were thinking about something the whole time I was talking. Just talk with your Father about it. Do it because you love him. He loved you first. I'll give you a minute to do it, and then I'll pray and we'll close out.

Father, we want to turn from our sin to you. We want to do it primarily because we love you. We want to do it for our families, for our kids, for the legacy we're leaving behind, for our culture, for our workplaces, but primarily because we love you.

Lord, most of all today in response to this word, which is a hard word, I am so grateful that an ark has been provided, that I have a Savior who said, "I see where your sin is going. I'm stepping in the way, and I'm going to go to the end of it. I'm going to wear it on my back on a tree, and I'm going to give you new life on the other side." What an incredible gift.

We cling to you, Jesus. Without you there's nothing but waiting for a flood. With you there's promise of new life, and we're living in it today. Make it more and more real to us every day. Open our eyes to see the spiritual realities that are true in and around us all the time. Help us, God. We need your help. Oh my goodness, we need your help. We love you. We pray this in Jesus' name, amen.