

Ask Fr James

Is Inter-generational curses true? What can be done?

There are people suffering from inter-generational curses. This can happen in two ways: One, God can visit the iniquity of parents on their children and grandchildren to the third and fourth generation (Numbers 14:18; Exodus 20:5; Exodus 34:6-7; Deut. 5:8-10). The second way in which intergenerational curses can occur is through misfortunes arising from ancestral faults arising from oaths expressed in curses, that evil may befall their lineage or family in perpetuity.

These individuals and their families continue to deal with past hurts, unresolved conflicts, and misfortune of all kinds; financial problems, witchcraft attacks, can't hold down a job, accidents, evil dreams, emotional instability fear, family breakdown and divorce, miscarriages, alcoholism, whoring, lying and stealing; leading to brokenness that have been passed down through generational lines, the effects of which will gradually begin to touch on their present negatively. There are several examples in the Bible. Let us examine first account of a future generation cursed as was recorded in Genesis 9:

Noah, a man of the soil, proceeded to plant a vineyard. When he drank some of its wine, he became drunk and lay uncovered inside his tent. Ham, the father of Canaan, saw his father naked and told his two brothers outside. 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. When Noah awoke from his wine and found out what his youngest son had done to him, he said, "Cursed be Canaan! The lowest of slaves will he be to his brothers" (Genesis 9:20-27)

The curse placed on Canaan and his descendants, for the sin of Ham his dad plagued the Canaanites for centuries and they were called "dogs" until Jesus broke that inter-generational curse in Matthew 15:21-28. Scripture tells the story in this way:

Jesus withdrew to the region of Tyre and Sidon. A Canaanite woman from that vicinity came to Him, crying out, "Lord, Son of David, have mercy on me!... Jesus did not answer a word. So his disciples came to Him and urged Him, "Send her away, for she keeps crying out after us." He answered, "I was only sent to the lost sheep of Israel." The woman came and knelt before Him. "Lord, help me!" she said. He replied, "It is not right to take the children's bread and toss it to their dogs." "Yes, Lord," she said, "but even the dogs eat the crumbs that fall from their master's table." Then Jesus answered, "Woman, you have great faith! Your request is granted." And her daughter was healed from that very hour. (Matthew 15:21-28)

People need generational healing through deliverance – the process whereby negative characteristics, behaviours, and sin passed down from generation to generation, are reduced or alleviated. God has given Jesus Christ full authority over all creation and all tribulations. Jesus put the issue starkly in John. 12:31-32; "Now is the judgement of this world; now the ruler of this world will be driven out. And I, when I am lifted up, will draw all people to myself." God's awesome power in Jesus' life, death and resurrection is able to defeat every thrust of Satan and evil.

The first step is for such people or families to up their church attendance and prayer life. They should avail themselves of the healing ministry of their priest, asking God to bring forgiveness, love and healing to the hurtful and/or sinful places in the family's past generations. People suffering from inter-generational curses are encouraged to do Novenas and participate in the Eucharistic Liturgy (Mass) and the Sacrament of Reconciliation so as to experience the loving forgiveness of God and thereafter, go see the priest for the ritual of prayers and anointing.

You may email/send your faith questions to Fr. James and he will answer them in our Sunday Bulletins.