

Genesis 5_Somebody Is Inheriting You. Douglas Humphrey

Let me ask you something before we open the text this morning.

If you died tonight — not what would happen to your house, your car, your bank account — but what would the people closest to you be left with spiritually?

What would your children know about God because of you? What would your spouse have seen modeled? What would the people in your life carry forward regarding faith, prayer, worship, and godliness — based solely on what they watched you do?

Most people never think about that question until it is too late to change the answer.

That's where [Genesis 5](#) takes us today.

At first glance, it looks like a chapter you can skim. Names, numbers, ages, death notices. The kind of chapter you flip past on the way to the flood narrative. But Moses will not let you do that. Because buried inside this genealogy is one of the most confrontational truths in all of Scripture:

Your life is becoming someone else's inheritance.

[Genesis 5](#) traces the family line from Adam through Seth all the way to Noah. And before we ever get to the flood, the text forces a question on us —

what kind of life are you passing down?

Because Cain left something behind.

Lamech left something behind.

And Seth left something behind too.

Cain's line left a legacy of godlessness. Cain's Lamech wore sin like a badge of honor.

But Seth's line became known for something entirely different — they called on the name of the Lord.

And that's what makes this chapter so impactful.

Nobody lives to himself.

Nobody sins to himself.

Nobody walks with God to himself.

You are always handing something down.

Somebody is watching your life right now.

Learning from your patterns.

Being formed by your example.

And legacy is not just what people say about you after you die. Legacy is what your life is teaching people while you are still alive.

So the question isn't whether you are leaving one. The question is what kind.

- **Some people leave a legacy of no faith at all.**
Who is God? Why do I need Him? I can run my own life.
- **Others leave a legacy of halfway faith** — they deal with God only when it benefits them. And what they pass down is a distorted view of Him, as if God exists to serve them rather than rule them.
- But then there is another kind. **A legacy of walking with God.** A legacy that stirs the next generation to know Him, trust Him, and live for Him.

That's the only legacy that brings real peace. The only kind that leaves you knowing, when your days are over, that your life pleased God.

So today I want to preach from this thought:

Somebody Is Inheriting You.

Not just your name. Not just your stuff. Not just your genetics. Your patterns. Your convictions. Your worship. Your appetite for God — or your disregard for Him.

Somebody is inheriting you.

What I have for you today are four facts to consider regarding your spiritual legacy.

Everyone starts with equal worth and value. v1-3

The text opens by taking us back to creation.

God made man in His likeness. In the image of God, He created them. Male and female. And when He made them, He blessed them and called them mankind.

Now think about where we are in the story. The fall has already happened. Cain has already murdered Abel. Lamech has already boasted in violence. Sin is already spreading. And yet Moses opens this chapter by going all the way back to creation and reaffirming what God declared from the beginning.

Why?

Because Moses wants you to understand that the fall did not cancel the image.

Sin distorted the carrier — but it did not destroy what God placed inside us. The *imago Dei* survived the garden. It survived the murder. It survived the curse. And it survived every generation between Adam and you.

That matters — because it means every human being on this list started from the same place. Every name. Every lifespan. Every father. Every son. Whether they walked with God or walked away from Him — they all began with the same God-given dignity.

And so do you.

You are not like the animals. Not like the trees. Not like the stars. Not like anything else in all of creation.

You have been uniquely set apart.

To bear His image means your life carries dignity, meaning, and assignment. You were made to reflect Him. Given purpose. Entrusted with responsibility — to subdue, to oversee, to be fruitful, to multiply on the earth.

So right out of the gate, the text establishes something we need to settle:

Human worth is not earned. It is assigned.

Your value is not based on what family you came from, how much money you have, your education, your social status, or how people treat you. Your worth comes from one place — God made you in His image.

And that means nobody in this room has more inherent value than anybody else. Not the pastor. Not the deacon. Not the person with the most money. Not the person with the most education.

The image of God does not increase with your resume and it does not decrease with your failures. It is fixed. It is equal. It is assigned by God and it cannot be revoked by man.

Now verse 3 adds something we cannot overlook. When Adam fathered Seth, Moses tells us Seth was born in Adam's likeness, after his image. This post-fall language. The image is still being transmitted — but now it is being carried through fallen hands. Every generation after Adam receives the dignity of the *imago Dei* through the reality of a broken humanity.

But here's what that does not mean — it does not mean the image is diminished. It means the responsibility to steward it is greater.

You did not choose your starting point.

But you do choose what you will do with it.

That is why you need to understand what you are actually carrying.

I am a sci-fi guy. And one of the favorite tropes in sci-fi is this idea of a special code, a chosen person, a hidden power that is supposed to change everything. And the whole story builds around getting it, protecting it, unleashing it. The investment is enormous. The stakes are high. The anticipation is real.

And usually — when they finally get their hands on it — it does not deliver. It does not fulfill the promise. It does not justify what it cost.

But that's not your story.

You are not merely carrying your family name.

Not merely carrying your ethnicity or your gender or your zip code.

You're carrying the image of God.

That cannot be said of anything else in all of creation — only you were made to walk around in this world as a living reflection of the God who made it.

What makes you human is not simply that you live — it's that you bear the image of the One who made you. You carry the mark of divine design. The weight of sacred assignment. You were made to put God on display in the earth.

Feel the theological weight of that.

The question isn't whether you carry the image of God. You do. All of us do.

The question is whether you are living like it.

Because what you choose — they will inherit.

You're an image-bearer, so Live like one.

Because somebody is watching. And those watching eyes inherit what they see.

Here is the second fact regarding the legacy you leave...

Death locks in your legacy. v5,8, 11, 14, 17, 20, 27, 31

As Moses walks us through this genealogy, he gives us these staggering numbers.

Nine hundred and thirty years.

Nine hundred and twelve years.

Nine hundred and five years.

Eight hundred and ninety-five years.

These are massive lifespans. Hard for us to even imagine.

And yet Moses ends these lives the exact same way every time:

"And he died."

That's not accidental. That's not filler. That's not Moses just wrapping up a paragraph.

Moses is preaching through repetition.

Because no matter how long they lived, no matter how many children they had, no matter how much ground they covered — the same sentence kept showing up.

"And he died."

That means the wage of sin did not go away.

The consequence God spoke in the garden did not fade with time.

The judgment of God did not weaken across generations.

People lived long. But they still died.

And that is true for everyone of us.

You can put off hard conversations.

You can put off repentance.

You can put off obedience.

You can put off getting serious about God.

But you cannot put off death.

And here is what we need to understand — death does not just end your life. It ends your ability to change what you leave behind.

Every decision you made. Every pattern you established. Every relationship you shaped.

Every way you related to God — whether you walked with Him or kept Him at arm's length — death arrives and makes it permanent.

No revision. No correction. No final edit.

What you lived becomes what remains.

That is sobering — because these men had more time than we will ever have. Centuries. And when death came, it sealed not what they meant to build — but what they actually built.

That's what death does.

It locks in who you actually were.

Like writing your name in wet concrete — when it hardens, your name gets locked in.

Now, we live in a culture that works overtime to lessen the reality of death.

We soften it. We rename it. We try to beat it through anti-aging procedures. Or acting like we're younger than what we actually are. We avoid talking about it. We treat it like an interruption instead of an inevitability.

But [Genesis 5](#) does not let us do that.

And he died. And he died. And he died.

Over and over again.

Not because Moses is morbid.

Not because Moses is being pessimistic.

But because Moses is calling us to wake up.

And I have felt the weight of that in ways I cannot shake.

I have stood by enough hospital beds. stood over enough caskets. Watched enough families try to gather themselves in the shadow of loss.

And I'm telling you, when death comes, what stays behind is not the stuff. Not the money. Not the titles.

What stays behind are the deposit they made in other people.

I have seen children standing there lost because nobody ever taught them how to pray.

I have seen families trying to find strength in a faithless foundation.

The person is gone—but what they built has influence. still carries sway!!

Death locked the door. And the family was left to live with whatever legacy had already been built.

When you and I die, our legacy finalizes and it keeps speaking well beyond our grave.

So the question is: **Are you prepared for our legacy to live on with out you?**

If no, then now is the time to change that.

Now we cannot read this chapter faithfully without pausing at Enoch.

Moses has been writing the same sentence over and over. *"And he died." "And he died." "And he died."*

Then he gets to Enoch — and the pattern breaks.

"Enoch walked with God; then he was not there because God took him."

No death notice. No grave. God simply took him.

And at first glance it may look like Enoch escaped the principle. But he did he?

When God took Enoch, three hundred years of walking with God became his spiritual legacy. Three hundred years of faithfulness.

Three hundred years of steady obedience.

Three hundred years of living for God.

The action of God taking Enoch sealed his legacy.

It fixed it in the pages of both the OT & NT.

He couldn't add to it. He could not subtract from it.

His legacy was locked. By God's grace, Enoch left a godly legacy.

Either in death or should God call you up, your legacy remains to testify who you were.

So, what are we to do with this fact?

Well first and foremost be sober minded.

Not morbid. Not paranoid. Not hopeless.

Sober.

Let the certainty of death clarify how you live.

Let it expose anything that is tarnishing the legacy you ought to building.

Because the issue is not how long you live.

The issue is how well you live for God with the time you have left.

Death is not the interruption of your legacy.

It's the moment your legacy becomes permanent.

That's our second fact... Third....

Your walk with God can change the direction of your family line. v23-24

See that, we need to turn to visit Enoch again.

The text tells us he lived. It tells us he had children. It tells us he lived three hundred years after the birth of Methuselah.

But that is not what makes him stand out.

What makes him stand out is this —

Enoch walked with God.

Stop there.

Out of all these names, out of all these years, out of all these men who lived and died — Moses singles out Enoch with that one phrase. Not that he was successful. Not that he was powerful. Not that he outlived everyone around him.

He walked with God.

That is the language of a life aligned with God's will, God's word, God's ways, and God's rule. Enoch did not just know about God. He moved with God. He ordered his life around God with this settled conviction:

God comes first.

And that kind of life does not stay with one person.

It gets handed down.

Some of you pray the way you pray because you heard somebody pray.

Some of you trust God the way you trust God because you watched somebody trust Him.

Some of you love the Word because somebody in your life lived it first.

Some of you understand the Bible for yourself b/c you sat under solid Biblical teaching.

That's legacy.

That's what it looks like when somebody's walk with God outlives them.

And Enoch's legacy did not stop with him.

Keep reading his line and eventually you get to Noah. And when you get to [Genesis 6:9](#), the text says "*Noah was righteous — blameless among his contemporaries.*" That kind of backbone does not come out of nowhere. That kind of Godward seriousness had already been modeled somewhere in that family line.

Enoch's walk was still echoing generations later.

That's the power of one life surrendered to God.

One person can change what gets normalized in a house. One person can break a cycle.

One person can leave behind a pattern of faith that future generations thrive on.

Now here is where I need to make a pastoral turn.

Because for some of you, everything I just said lands like a weight rather than an encouragement.

You look upstream in your life and there is no Enoch there.

Nobody modeled faith for you.

Nobody taught you how to pray or showed you how to trust God.

Nobody laid a spiritual foundation in your family line.

And when you hear about Enoch, your response is — *that is not my story.*

If that's you, please hear me.

Enoch's example is not a rebuke.

It's a permission slip.

You do not need a godly heritage to start one.

You just need to decide that the cycle ends with you and a new one begins.

Maybe faith did not come down your family line — but by the grace of God, it can start with you.

The most powerful thing you can do for the generation behind you is not to have it all figured out. It's to be found consistently walking with the Lord. So that when they look up, they see someone worth following.

Somebody has to be first.

By the grace of God, it can be you. It should be you.

So, like Enoch and Noah — Walk with God.

Not occasionally. Not when life is comfortable or the season feels spiritual.

Walk with God when you feel His presence and when you do not.

Walk with God when life is good and when it is hard.

Walk with God in the ordinary, unremarkable days when nobody is watching.

Be the Enoch in your family line. Be the one who changes the story. Be the one who makes faith normal in your house.

Because somebody is always watching. And what they see you do with God is what they will believe is possible.

The fourth and final fact regarding the legacy you leave is this:

Your faith is planting seeds that future generations will harvest. v28-29

At the end of this genealogy, something shifts.

When Moses gets to Lamech — Seth's Lamech, not Cain's Lamech — he does not just record the birth of a son. He slows down and gives us something else entirely.

A word of hope.

The text says, "This one will bring us relief from the agonizing labor of our hands, caused by the ground the Lord has cursed."

That matters.

If you remember Genesis 3 — when Adam sinned, God cursed the ground. What used to come easy would now come hard. Man would labor, toil, and strain just to pull from the earth what he needed to survive.

And here comes Lamech saying —

This one. This son. Noah. He will bring us relief.

That's a heavy thing to speak over a child.

This is not a father picking a name he likes.

That is not a sentimental moment at a baby shower.

That is a man looking at a broken world and choosing hope anyway.

In the ancient world, names carried weight. Names reflected purpose. Names pointed to expectation.

Lamech is not just naming Noah.

He is speaking hope over the next generation.

He is looking ahead and asking — What might God do in the next? How might the pain be interrupted? How might the curse be answered through somebody coming after me?

And without fully understanding what he was setting in motion, Lamech points beyond Noah to something infinitely larger.

Noah would become a temporary deliverer — a man God used to preserve humanity through the flood. But he's also something more than that.

In the language of biblical theology, Noah is a "type" — a real historical person whose life foreshadows and points forward to a greater reality still to come. Noah saves his family through the ark. But Moses is writing toward Someone who will save the world.

And when you trace this genealogy all the way through — in Luke chapter 3, you learn that Jesus Christ came through this exact line. Through Lamech. Through Seth. All the way back to Adam.

Moses was writing names that God intended to land on the pages of a gospel.

Lamech spoke hope over one son. And God used that family line to bring the Savior of the world.

Now here's what stops me every time I read this.

Lamech never lived to see the full fruit of what he spoke.

Let that sit for a moment.

He did not live to stand in the new world after the flood. He did not live to see all that Noah would become. He did not live to see the Christ that his family line was carrying.

In faith, He spoke hope into a future he would never see. He planted a seed he would never harvest.

And yet he did it anyway.

?Why?

B/c that's what faithful people do.

They plant forward.

They sow into futures they'll never benefit from. They speak life over people they will not live long enough to fully see.

And that's exactly what God is calling every one of us to do.

For those of us who are in Christ — hear me.

Your job is to plant seeds.

Seeds of faith. Seeds of conviction. Seeds of trust in a God. Seed of hope. Seeds steadfastness.

And some of those seeds, you will never live long enough to see fully grow.

But that does not make your work any less valuable. In fact, It makes it more valuable.

Because legacy is not about controlling outcomes. Legacy is about being faithful enough to pass on what God gave you to others.

We will never fully know on this side of glory what God did with what we planted.

And if we are honest — that's not even the point.

The reward is not in the fruit. The reward is not in seeing what becomes of the seeds you sow.

The reward is in the planting.

Because every time you plant a seed of faith — every time you open the Word with somebody, pray over your children, speak truth into a young life, model what it looks like to walk with God — you are doing something that glorifies God whether you ever see the results or not.

The reward is in the planting, b/c doing so glorifies God and in turn fills our hearts with satisfaction knowing our seeding pleases God.

God does not ask you to produce the harvest.
He asks you to trust Him enough to keep sowing.

So, keep planting. Planting seeds of righteous, faith, and obedience.

Conclusion

Because here is what [Genesis 5](#) has been saying to us from the very first name to the very last.

Somebody is inheriting you.

Your faith — or your faithlessness.
Your walk with God — or your distance from Him.
Your pattern of devotion — or your pattern of indifference.

Somebody is going to receive what you built.
And death will one day lock the door on whatever that is.

So the question this chapter leaves us with is the same one it opened with.

When your life spreads — what will people receive?

If you are in Christ today — if you have been redeemed by the same Savior — then you have been given the most valuable seed in the history of the world.

The Gospel.

Live it. Plant it.

Plant it in your children.
Plant it in the people God has put in your path.
Plant it in the ordinary, unremarkable moments when nobody is watching.

Keep planting and trust God to bring His harvest.

Somebody is inheriting you.

Make sure what they receive is worth everything it cost you to plant it.

Join me in prayer!

Closing song

Closing:

prayer/questions, CC, Foundations, Church in the park, LGLHP