

Overview

Merriam Dictionary defines legacy as “something that happened in the past or that comes from someone in the past.” This can include anything from finances to property to moral characteristics. Almost everyone has a desire to be known for something. They would like to fill in the phrase: “After my days are done I want to be remembered for _____.” In the different arenas of your life your legacy might be different. You could be remembered as a tremendous employee who went above and beyond but at the same time as an absent parent who was never available for your kids. Maybe your church will remember you as a faithful attendee, but your friends and family never knew about your beliefs. One key to a great legacy is consistency. This is the topic being discussed in Malachi chapter 2. The prophet Malachi is rebuking the priest for not honoring God’s word. Their faith was being undermined by their actions. Basically what they said and what they did were two different things. This conflict would not only affect them but also their descendants. They were leaving a legacy of hypocrisy. There is a song by Casting Crowns called Altar and the Door. It deals with the struggle everyone has on living a life of consistency where you are the same person Monday through Saturday that you are on Sunday. Here are some of the lyrics: “Lord, this time I’ll make it right, here at the altar I lay my life, Your kingdom come but MY will be done, my heart is broken as I cry, Like so many times before but my eyes are dry before I leave the floor.” Just like Malachi this song is addressing the issue of leaving legacy and not forgetting God’s word between the altar and the door.

Bible Study: Malachi 2

1. What is your legacy? If it isn’t the way you would like, how are you going to go about changing it?
2. Read Exodus 34:7. How does your actions and speech influence those around you? In what ways can children raised with poor moral models not follow in the same footsteps?
3. In what ways have you seen the sins of a parent be passed down to a child?
4. Malachi 2:3-6 is remembering the legacy of the Levites (priests of old). Why does God remind them of the ancestry and how different they are acting now?
5. Read Malachi 2:6. In what ways can living a life of consistency lead others to believe in Christ?
6. Sometimes it is big compromises but usually it is the small everyday compromises that will lead you away from Christ. What steps are you taking to lead a life of consistency? (LifeGroup, daily Bible reading, accountability)
7. Read Malachi 2:7. All believers are ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:19-20). How is your legacy for Christ strengthened when your faith and actions are consistent? How would you respond to someone who says the church is full of hypocrites?