

# Keep Digging

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## Legacy

- Legacy isn't something that we properly understand in western culture. We often say things like, her legacy will be remembered. Their life has left an incredible legacy. We hear the word and think about how prolific someone's existence was. Our mind runs to what a person accomplished. They cured this. They discovered that. They lived in this specific way. Legacy, in our cultural context is largely individualistic.
- This is due in part to how individualized our culture has become. We think about our careers, as OUR path or OUR vision for our life. We think about investment in terms of how to live the end of our lives more comfortably. We marry who we think will make us happy. Our outlook on life is centered around our life. We are trained to think this way. What will be best for me? Which is why even a topic like legacy is seen through the lens of an isolated person. However, this word legacy has a totally different idea attached to it.
  - Legacy: anything handed down from the past, as from an ancestor or predecessor.
- This is actually how the Bible views the idea of legacy as well. The biblical concept of legacy is typically described by the word inheritance. This concept did not center solely around the success of one person, but rather the growth and cultivation of something that would be a blessing for generations and generations to come.
- Let's look at this reality in the life of Abraham:
  - "After Lot had gone, the Lord said to Abram, "Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, to you and your descendants as a permanent possession. And I will give you so many descendants that, like the dust of the earth, they cannot be counted!" - Genesis 13:14-16 NLT
  - The vision that God gave Abraham for his life was not just for his own benefit, but for the benefit of the generations that would come after him. He didn't give Him a singular purpose or life goal that started and ended with Himself. His vision, as all visions given by God are, was purposed to leave a legacy.
- As we approach our thirty year anniversary as a collective community we want to talk about this principle of legacy through the lens of Abraham's life. Let's address three keys to legacy!

I. Legacy starts with vision.

A. Look as far as you can see in every direction—north and south, east and west. - Genesis 13:14 NLT

1. God doesn't give vision to a few people. He gives it to people who pursue Him.
  - a) "For I know the thoughts *and* plans that I have for you, says the Lord, thoughts *and* plans for welfare *and* peace and not for evil, to give you hope in your final outcome. Then you will call upon Me, and you will come and pray to Me, and I will hear *and* heed you. Then you will seek Me, inquire for, *and* require Me [as a vital necessity] and find Me when you search for Me with all your heart." - Jeremiah 29:11-14
2. God's vision gives us life, and it gives life to those who will follow our legacy.
  - a) "Where there is no vision [no redemptive revelation of God], the people perish; but he who keeps the law [of God, which includes that of man]—blessed (happy, fortunate, and enviable) is he." - Proverbs 29:18 AMPC
3. Vision is the motivator when things become difficult.
  - a) "Then the Lord answered me and said: "Write the vision and make *it* plain on tablets, **that he may run who reads it.**" - Habakkuk 2:2 NKJV

II. Legacy will outlive us.

A. "I am giving all this land, as far as you can see, **to you and your descendants as a permanent possession.**" - Genesis 13:15

1. As we said before legacy isn't just for us.
  - a) A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children - Proverbs 13:22
  - b) "Let this be recorded for a generation to come, so that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord" - Psalm 102:18
2. The work to be done to fulfill the vision God gives us will be carried out for generations to come.
  - a) Abraham only had one son, when he was promised to be the Father of many nations.

Sunday, August 22nd

- (1) He wasn't discouraged because he understood legacy. He knew that His descendants would carry out the legacy!

III. The greatest legacy we can leave is relationship with God!

A. Abraham knew that the greatest inheritance or legacy of all, was the Lord!

1. "After these things the word of the Lord came to Abram in a vision, saying, "Do not be afraid, Abram. I *am* your shield, your exceedingly great reward." - Genesis 15:1 NKJV

B. David had this same understanding.

1. The Lord is the portion of my inheritance, my cup [He is all I need]... - Psalm 16:5

C. "“And Solomon, my son, learn to know the God of your ancestors intimately. Worship and serve him with your whole heart and a willing mind. For the Lord sees every heart and knows every plan and thought. If you seek him, you will find him. But if you forsake him, he will reject you forever.” - 1 Chronicles 28:9 NLT

IV. Legacy must be taught.

- A. 4 "Hear, O Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one! 5 You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. 6 "And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. 7 You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates. - Deuteronomy 6:4-9 NKJV