
HOW TO LEAVE A LEGACY

The Story

Genesis 23

Sermon Notes

1. Base all of our priorities on heaven, not earth.
 - Hebrews 11:13-16
2. Real legacies are about people, not possessions.
3. Show people we follow Jesus by your testimony, not your title.

My Story

1. When you think of leaving a legacy, what are some of the first things that come to mind?
2. Who comes to mind when you hear the idea of people leaving a legacy? What is it about them that makes you take notice of how they lived?
3. Who are the people in your life you are influencing?
4. What traits do you think are the most important to develop to leave a legacy with true value?

In The Beginning

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5. Have possessions or the pursuit of possessions ever gotten in the way of relationships in your life?
6. Do you know God as your Savior and Lord? If so, have you lived most of your time focusing on what happens in your everyday life on earth, or with the idea of your final destination of heaven, as your focus?
7. If you are married, have you ever considered the witness or legacy of your marriage? What legacy will your marriage leave?
8. Have you witnessed anyone who has passed away and, as they neared this time, you saw them have peace because they knew they were headed to God's presence?
9. Have you ever lost someone and wept over them like Abraham did Sarah? How has that impacted your life?
10. Myron said, 'people often trust a Christian before they trust Christ.' Has this been your experience?

Digging Deeper

Read through these guiding scriptures and answer the corresponding questions.

Read Genesis

1. Have you ever thought of Sarah as a unique person in the Bible?
2. Why do you think so much (relatively) of Sarah's story is recorded in the Bible?

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3. What are some of the main traits you see in Sarah's life that are valuable for how we can live as followers of God?

Read Hebrews 11.

1. Who is the first woman (and one of only a few) mentioned, and what is she commended for? What does this tell you about Sarah's legacy?

Read Luke 16:1-15.

1. How does this parable remind us that the stuff of this world can be used for God's glory as we interact with people?

Read Mark 8:34-37.

1. When you consider leaving a legacy, how does this section of scripture direct your living?

Read Matthew 6:19-24.

1. How does this teaching of Jesus echo Abraham's behavior in Genesis 23? How could this be fleshed out in your life?

Read Colossians 1:9-12.

1. Paul prayed this over the believers in the Colossian church. How could this prayer impact our legacy? Pray this over your own life and the lives of your family/loved ones this week.

Bringing It Home

1. Have you ever considered that you will leave a legacy?

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2. If someone was asked to share about your legacy, to this point in your life, what do you think they would share about your life?
3. How is your witness to Christ at home? How would your spouse, children, and family describe your walk with Christ?
4. Can people tell you are a Christian by the way you live? Is there something in your life that compromises your witness of Christ to others?
5. Myron shared the quote by C.S. Lewis, "If you aim for heaven you get earth thrown in. If you aim for earth, you get neither." What do you think when you hear this? What perspective does this offer to specific areas of your life (your home, your family, your neighborhood, your abilities, your hobbies, your travel, your shopping, your finances, your job, your recreation, your entertainment, your diet, your friendships, etc.)
6. Considering the traits you think are the most important to develop in order to leave a legacy that has true value — do you have these traits currently? If so, how can you continue to grow in these areas? If not, what can you do on a day-to-day basis to develop these traits?
7. Since the only thing that gets into heaven is people, how can you use the passions God has given you, the talents you have, and the blessings God has given you to express God to people?
8. Abraham called himself a foreigner and stranger, and Myron shared that Abraham thought of himself that way because he knew he would only really be at home in heaven with God. How can that perspective change the way we live and interact with others? What does it look like to prioritize heaven over your earthly life?