

Legacy

CREW LEADER GUIDE: A GREATER IMPACT - LEGACY PART 1

Message Summary:

In this message, we are challenged to reconsider what it truly means to leave a legacy. Using the history of True North Church as a backdrop, we see how obedience to the Holy Spirit, even when met with opposition, produces results that no human effort alone could achieve. The sermon distinguishes between earthly inheritance and spiritual legacy, arguing that the greatest thing one can leave a generation is not financial wealth but a living, demonstrated faith in Jesus Christ. Drawing on vessel theology from Isaiah 64, the parable of the prodigal son, and the temptation of Christ, the message calls believers to honest self-examination, full surrender, and intentional, Spirit-led living so that what they leave behind answers the questions the next generation will face.

Key Points:

- Legacy is never accidental; it requires intentionality, action, focus, and sacrifice
- Obedience to the Holy Spirit often leads people to do things they would never choose on their own, but those acts of obedience become the foundation of meaningful legacy
- True inheritance is not primarily financial; the greatest thing one can leave a generation is faith, trust, and hope in Jesus Christ
- Generosity is not about what God wants from believers but about what holds the heart, whether the spirit of mammon or the love of God
- A good man, as described in Proverbs 13:22, leaves an inheritance for his children's children, which encompasses spiritual leadership and example far beyond material wealth
- Generational curses can be broken; being a first-generation believer does not disqualify anyone from leaving a profound legacy
- Identity in Christ is foundational to legacy; knowing who you are as a child of God reshapes your sense of purpose and what you choose to leave behind
- The church is built not on the sacrifice of one individual but on the collective, faithful stewardship of a community committed to the next generation

Key Scripture:

- **Psalms 127:1** Unless the Lord builds the house, those who labor, labor in vain — referenced multiple times throughout the sermon in the context of building the church and its facilities.
- **2 Corinthians 5:7** Walking by faith and not by sight — referenced in the context of facing financial and logistical obstacles.
- **Proverbs 13:22** A good man leaves an inheritance for his children's children, and the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.
- **Luke 15:11-32** The Parable of the Prodigal Son — referenced extensively, including the son requesting his inheritance, squandering it, returning to the father, and the father running to meet him.
- **John 16:33** In this world you will have trouble and tribulation — referenced when the pastor speaks about trials and tribulations being a promise of Jesus.

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Discussion and Reflection

1. Legacy is described as requiring intentionality, action, focus, and sacrifice. In what areas of your life do you sense the Holy Spirit calling you to be more intentional about the legacy you are building?
2. The message imparts that the greatest inheritance you can leave a generation is not wealth but faith, hope, and trust in Jesus Christ. How does this challenge or reshape the way you are currently investing your time, energy, and resources?
3. Reflecting on the story of the prodigal son, the Ps. Jesse suggests that the father's forgiveness, love, and mercy were a greater inheritance than the financial gift. How has experiencing God's grace and forgiveness shaped the legacy you want to leave for those who come after you?
4. The point is made that people nearing the end of their lives rarely wish they had earned more money or accumulated more possessions. What does this reveal about the gap between what we say matters and how we actually live day to day?
5. Proverbs 13:22 speaks of a good man leaving an inheritance for his children's children. Beyond financial provision, what spiritual, relational, or character-based inheritance are you actively cultivating to pass on to the next generation?
6. Ps. Jesse highlights vessel theology from Isaiah 64 to describe how God forms us, gives us purpose, consecrates us, and empowers us, requiring only our availability and yielding. What areas of your life have you been reluctant to fully yield to God, and what is holding you back?
7. As believers, we need to be honest with ourselves about where we truly are in our spiritual journey before we can be honest in our relationships with others. What does an honest assessment of your own faith, generosity, and surrender to God reveal about your current walk with Christ?
8. So much of the Christian faith is caught rather than taught, meaning the next generation absorbs what they observe in our lives more than what we tell them. What is the generation watching your life currently catching from you, and does it reflect the legacy you want to leave?

Practical Challenge:

Here are a few ways to help activate key next steps this week:

- **Reflect on your legacy.** Set aside quiet time this week to write down what you want to be remembered for — not your accomplishments, but the faith, character, and values you want the next generation to inherit from you. Ask the Holy Spirit to show you where your life currently lines up with that vision and where it does not.
- **Have an honest conversation with God.** Ps. Jesse called for honest self-reflection before the Lord. Pray Psalm 139:23-24, asking God to search your heart and reveal anything that has not yet been fully surrendered to Him. Write down what He brings to light.
- **Identify one area of generosity.** Generosity goes beyond finances. Identify one specific and practical way you can be more generous this week — with your time, your forgiveness, your encouragement, or your resources — and follow through on it.
- **Take one step of faith.** Is there something you have felt the Holy Spirit prompting you toward that you have been avoiding because it feels too large or too uncertain? Identify one concrete step you can take this week, however small, in the direction of that calling.