



Intro

-- New Year's goals including redoing wills and trusts, especially if young parents.

-- Yet, as I think of my own last will and testament, I want my legacy to be more than just something counted in terms of dollars and cents.

TR: I want to leave a legacy of True Riches

Luke 16:10-12

“One who is faithful in a very little is also faithful in much, and one who is dishonest in a very little is also dishonest in much. ¹¹If then you have not been faithful in the unrighteous wealth, **who will entrust to you the true riches?** ¹²And if you have not been faithful in that which is another's, who will give you that which is your own?”

ESV

Jesus said . . . READ SLIDE

- I want to be faithful in my stewardship of money and possessions, but I know they are not true riches.**
- EX: Would rather have people say, “He had his Father’s eyes.” (cf. when I heard song in seminary)**
- What true riches would I like to leave in my legacy? What will be your legacy?**
- What will they say about you at your funeral . . . and afterward. “That’s just like . . .”**

TR: I would like people to honestly be able to say . . .

Galatians 3:7-9

Know then that it is those of faith who are the sons of Abraham. ⁸And the Scripture, foreseeing that God would justify the Gentiles by faith, preached the gospel beforehand to Abraham, saying, "In you shall all the nations be blessed." ⁹So then, those who are of faith are blessed along with Abraham, the man of faith.

ESV

**. . . he had faith like Abraham.
-- READ SLIDE**

TR: Abraham's faith is why he was justified. As Romans tells us . . .

No unbelief made (**Abraham**) waver concerning the promise of God, but he grew strong in his faith as he gave glory to God, ²¹fully convinced that God was able to do what he had promised. ²²That is why his faith was “counted to him as righteousness.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: But, Abraham’s faith was not a dead faith that said it believed but did not live accordingly. James tells us . . .

James 2:21-23

Was not **Abraham** our father justified by works when he offered up his son Isaac on the altar? ²²You see that faith was active along with his works, and **faith was completed by his works;** ²³and the Scripture was fulfilled that says, "Abraham believed God, and it was counted to him as righteousness"—and he was called a friend of God.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Paul and James use the word “justified” in different, complementary senses.
- Oh, to have faith like Abraham, who would not even withhold his only son at God’s command.

TR: I want to be like Joseph, don’t you? After his father died, his brothers worried that he would seek to get even with them for the way they abused him.

Joseph wept when they spoke to him.
¹⁸His brothers also came and fell down
before him and said, "Behold, we are
your servants." ¹⁹But Joseph said to
them, "Do not fear, for am I in the place
of God?"

ESV

But . . . READ SLIDE

TR: Verse 20 continues . . .

As for you, you meant evil against me, but God meant it for good, to bring it about that many people should be kept alive, as they are today. ²¹So do not fear; I will provide for you and your little ones." Thus he comforted them and spoke kindly to them.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- To be the bigger man . . . to be gracious, even to those who have maligned and hurt me.**
- How we welcome back those who have stomped away OR those who have thrown rocks at us in our moments of difficulty . . . those are tests of our graciousness.**
- Joseph was gracious because he had faith . . . that God meant it for good.**

TR: Thinking through the Old Testament, I have decided that I want to be meek, like Moses.

Numbers 12:1a . . . 2-3

Miriam and Aaron spoke against Moses . . . ²And they said, "Has the Lord indeed spoken only through Moses? Has he not spoken through us also?" And the Lord heard it. ³Now the man **Moses was very meek**, more than all people who were on the face of the earth.

ESV

Even when his own sister and brother question his authority, his response is so gracious and gentle . . . **READ SLIDE**
 -- Moses' gentleness, his meekness, his "strength under control" . . . was tied to his grasp of the mission God had called him to.
 -- He wasn't called to raise up a nation in his own lineage . . . he was called to lead the Hebrews to the promised land.
 -- What strength under control . . . like a warhorse that rides towards the flames that scare him, so Moses rode forward . . .
 .
 -- . . . even praying for Miriam when she was disciplined by God for her rebellion with leprosy.

TR: I don't want to make a name for myself, but I do want to be like Joshua, a man full of resolve.

“And if it is evil in your eyes to serve the Lord, choose this day whom you will serve, whether the gods your fathers served in the region beyond the River, or the gods of the Amorites in whose land you dwell. **But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.”**

ESV

He lead the people into the promised land.

-- And at the end of his tenure, he said . . . READ SLIDE

-- God has taught me that while I may not be a great man like Joshua, I can be a man of resolve.

-- He made clear to me that I must be willing to go first and go alone.

TR: Perhaps it is too much to imagine, but I truly hope some can give glory to Jesus for using me in some small way to . . .

**Faith like Abraham
Graciousness like Joseph
Meekness like Moses
Full of Resolve like Joshua**

stir in them . . . REVIEW SLIDE.

TR: You know I like lots of content, so did you imagine that my last will and testament would be short? I would be thrilled if what was written about so few kings in Israel could be written about me . . .

For when Solomon was old his wives turned away his heart after other gods, and his heart was not wholly true to the Lord his God, **as was the heart of David his father.**

ESV

**. . . that Gary had a heart after God like David.
-- To have a heart that does not turn away.**

TR: As Acts records for us . . .

Acts 13:22-23

“And when he had removed (Saul), he raised up **David** to be their king, of whom he testified and said, ‘I have found in David the son of Jesse **a man after my heart, who will do all my will.**’
²³Of this man's offspring God has brought to Israel a Savior, Jesus, as he promised.”

ESV

READ SLIDE

TR: I've started pondering what it is to have a heart after God. I'm still thinking on it, but I think it includes generosity.

1 Chronicles 29:3

“Moreover, in addition to all that I have provided for the holy house, I have a treasure of my own of gold and silver, and because of my devotion to the house of my God I give it to the house of my God:”

ESV

1 Chronicles 29 records what David gave to the provision of the building of the first temple.

-- I want to be generous, not known as generous.

TR: There was one other thing that really helps me understand how David could be a man after God’s heart, even though he messed us so badly with his affair with Bathsheba and murderous plot against her husband.

David said to Nathan, “**I have sinned** against the Lord.” And Nathan said to David, “The Lord also has put away your sin; you shall not die.”

ESV

**When confronted by Nathan, David didn't excuse his sin, blame others, or try to run away. He “fessed” up.
-- I may never be “remarkable” like David, but I do want to be “rebukable” like he was.**

TR: Another great man of God was the miracle-working Elijah. While I strongly believe in miracles, the legacy I have received from Elijah and hope to pass on is to be a MAN OF PRAYER like he was. James says it this way . . .

The prayer of a righteous person has great power as it is working. ¹⁷Elijah was a man with a nature like ours, and he prayed fervently that it might not rain, and for three years and six months it did not rain on the earth. ¹⁸Then he prayed again, and heaven gave rain, and the earth bore its fruit.

ESV

READ SLIDE

- Elijah got tired, felt oppressed, ran away from the evil queen even after the great victory over the false prophets of Baal.
- But, it was not Elijah who worked the miracles . . . but God through him.
- I think that I may be leaving a legacy of hard work . . . but I yearn to do the hard work of prayer.
- This may be the attribute, the true riches, that I will have the hardest time leaving a wealth of. How about you?

TR: Jumping to the New Testament, there is so much I admire about the Apostle Paul. But, especially his perseverance.

Oh, to be able to say . . .

For I am already being poured out as a drink offering, and the time of my departure has come. ⁷I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, **I have kept the faith.**

ESV

READ SLIDE

- With so much pain, heartache, physical abuse and more . . . it is a legacy of perseverance Paul left for us.
- And it is one I want to leave for my kids and others I may be able to influence along the way.

TR: Paul wrote these last words to Timothy, who has been a role model to me since beginning to pastor Trinity Fellowship at the age of 25.

Philippians 2:19-21

I hope in the Lord Jesus to send **Timothy** to you soon, so that I too may be cheered by news of you. ²⁰For I have no one like him, **who will be genuinely concerned for your welfare.** ²¹For they all seek their own interests, not those of Jesus Christ.

ESV

I want to be like Timothy, who had such a love for others.

-- READ SLIDE

-- A love for others . . . as expressed in a genuine concern for their welfare on not just his own interests.

TR: When Paul tells the folks at Philippi that he hopes to send Timothy, the context was his challenge to be like Jesus.

Philippians 2:4-5

Let each of you **look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.** ⁵Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus,

ESV

Earlier in the same chapter, he writes . . . READ SLIDE

TR: I guess when I try to put it all together . . .

**Faith like Abraham
Graciousness like Joseph
Meekness like Moses
Full of Resolve like Joshua
Heart after God like David
Man of prayer like Elijah
Perseverance like Paul
Love for others like Timothy**

REVIEW SLIDE

-- When I put it all together . . . and there are so many other biblical heroes I want to emulate . . .

TR: . . . I want to be . . .

Faith like Abraham
Graciousness like Joseph
Meekness like Moses
Full of Resolve like Joshua
Heart after God like David
Man of prayer like Elijah
Perseverance like Paul
Love for others like Timothy
LIKE JESUS

LIKE JESUS.

TR: I want to be continually growing, year after year, toward . .

.

... until we all attain to the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the Son of God, to mature manhood, **to the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ,**

ESV

... the measure of the stature of the fullness of Christ.

TR: Even as Paul said, Imitate me as I imitate Christ ...

Faith like Abraham
Graciousness like Joseph
Meekness like Moses
Full of Resolve like Joshua
Heart after God like David
Man of prayer like Elijah
Perseverance like Paul
Love for others like Timothy
LIKE JESUS

. . . so I pray that would be like my Lord and Master.

-- Every quality that I listed, He has to its fullest and best degree.

-- If we read the love chapter, 1 Cor. 13, we can replace the word “love” with “Jesus” and it works.

-- Jesus is the very definition of love.

-- That made me wonder what I would be the very definition of. What would you be the very definition of?

-- We live in a world that now has labeled a disease called “selfitus” for those addicted to taking selfies.

-- I’m not asking us to take selfies, just to submit to Christ in a reflection on our progress toward becoming like Him.

-- Younger men, it is time for you to start accumulating a

wealth of true riches . . . it is time to be qualified to be a man of God.

-- Wives, encourage your husbands. Men, ask those around you where your legacy is falling short . . . and then resolve in the power of the Spirit to grow!

TR: The urgency for such reflection is not New Years . . . it is the reality of an eternity that is fast approaching. Let us not be like . . .



. . . those who golf while the world is going to hell . . . what will our legacy be?

TR: What qualities is God calling you to pursue this coming year?

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Graciousness like Joseph
Meekness like Moses
Full of Resolve like Joshua
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Love for others like Timothy
LIKE JESUS**

REVIEW SLIDE