

FATHERHOOD WITH PURPOSE

Building a Meaningful Legacy

2 Timothy 2:1-7

Fatherhood with Purpose: building a meaningful legacy.

Introduction: Nimrods

Who knows what a Nimrod is? The meaning of this term or name has changed throughout history. Bugs bunny kind of brought this word out of hibernation. In one of the first Bugs Bunny cartoons, Bugs called his nemesis Elmer Fudd a nimrod. The website Reddit says this about the word nimrod.

“ Bugs Bunny accidentally transformed the word nimrod into a synonym for idiot because nobody got a joke where he sarcastically compared Elmer Fudd to the Biblical figure Nimrod, a mighty hunter.”

. When Bugs called Elmer a nimrod, he was making fun of his hunting prowess but people didn't get the sarcasm because most had never heard the word before and assumed that he was calling Elmer a fool or an idiot.

. That meaning for the word has evolved in that way ever since.

. The term is used in a very derogatory way.

The Dictionary of American slang says this:

. Nimrod, a simpleton; a nerd

. It would be wise to avoid being a nimrod.

Being called a nimrod is an insult just about everywhere. **Not in Watersmeet, Michigan, where the local high school (Nimrod Slide)** proudly cheers for the Nimrods. Located in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan, near the Wisconsin border, Watersmeet sits in the Ottawa National Forest and hunting is popular in the area. The Nimrod mascot represents an outdoorsman and has biblical roots. Nimrod was a mighty hunter and the son of Cush and great-grandson of Noah. The nickname is extremely popular in the community,

Genesis 10:8-12

8 Cush was also the ancestor of Nimrod, who was the first heroic warrior on earth.

9 Since he was the greatest hunter in the world, his name became proverbial. People would say, “This man is like Nimrod, the greatest hunter in the world.”

10 He built his kingdom in the land of Babylonia, with the cities of Babylon, Erech, Akkad, and Calneh. 11 From there he expanded his territory to Assyria, building the

cities of Nineveh, Rehoboth-ir, Calah, 12 and Resen (the great city located between Nineveh and Calah).

- . Nimrod built and left a legacy.
- . Like Nimrod, we all leave a legacy in some way or another.

It is called leaving a legacy. All of us will leave one. Some for good. Some not so good. But at some point in life all of us must consider what kind of legacy we plan to leave behind when we are gone. Dads have to decide. Moms have to decide. All of us actually. So I'm asking you, what will your legacy be? One thing I think I know about all of us here this morning...is that we all have a desire to live a life that will stand for something and leave a legacy for others to follow. Children, grandchildren, friends. Because a wasted life is just not acceptable. Right? It's not.

[When I began to study, I was looking for a new person to find a legacy from the Bible, and even though Nimrod left a legacy It turned out that he was also known as a rebel, and not just a hunter of animals, but also men, and that he could have been the one who lead, or one of the ones who led the rebellion to build the tower of babel.]

So, as Nimrod may be a bad example, some of the good examples were Job, Joseph, and Joshua.

WHO IS JOSHUA?

He is everything that God wants every dad to be.

- Joshua is best known as Moses' second in command who takes over and leads the Israelites into the Promised Land after Moses' death.
- Joshua is considered one of the Bible's greatest military leaders for leading the seven-year conquest of the Promised Land, and is often held up as a model for leadership and a source of practical application on how to be an effective leader.

There is no course that I know of that a dad can learn how to become a great dad but the Word of God gives us the life of this great man called Joshua to emulate a dad.

For example, from the life of Joshua we see that...

HE PROVIDED AN EXAMPLE

Joshua said in **Joshua 24:15** – without apology, **“As For Me And My House We Will Serve the Lord.”**

When Paul wrote this letter to Timothy it seems as though his thoughts were headed in this direction. Paul was nearing the end of his life when he wrote this letter. Later in this same letter he says, 2 Tim. 4:6-8 “The time has come for my departure. We have finished the race, I have kept the faith. He then says, now there is in store for me the crown of righteousness which the Lord the righteous judge will award to me on that day... and not only to me but also so all who have longed for his appearing.”

So let's look at what Paul tells us...4 things we must consider if we plan to leave a godly legacy.

2 Timothy 2:1-7

“You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,² and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men,³ who will be able to teach others also. **3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. **7** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

Point One: The Role of Grace (2 Timothy 2:1)

2 Timothy 2:1 “You then, my child, be strengthened by the grace that is in Christ Jesus,”

Consider the place of GRACE in your legacy. V. 1. Be strong in grace. Salvation is free. We receive this gift of God called salvation. It's free. We do not work to be saved. We work because we are saved. Big difference. There is absolutely nothing we can do to earn God's favor but I can tell you this...all of us want it, right? All of us want and need God's favor in our lives.

Let me ask you a personal question. How did your Dad/Father impact your life? You can tell a lot about someone by the kind of Father they had. Fathers have a huge impact. I happen to believe that dads have an enormous amount of pressure placed on them today. You see the role for Dads has really changed through the years. It used to be that Dads were simply the bread winner of the family, came home, ate and went to bed. They were tired. They worked hard and you know what? That was enough. Today, if all a man does is work we say that he isn't a very good father. I suspect that here today that we have a real variety in our backgrounds. As I said, some of both. But my point is this. Your father, good or bad had a profound influence in your life.

All of us have the ability to impact others. In a positive way or in a negative way. Think for a moment about whom the people are who have impacted your life the most. In fact make a list. List the people who have affected you for good. Male or female.

What did they have in common and that will tell you what your greatest need is. For me they ALL encouraged me. I will admit that is a deep need in my life. Not one of them was judgmental. All kind. And I am a better person as a result of knowing them. At different stages in my life God placed these people in my life and they were exactly what I needed. They offered grace to me and that really matters.

Quote:

"If I'm not showing grace . . . have I forgotten the grace I've been shown?"

--John F. MacArthur

Fathers, please lead with grace. The grace that is given freely to you by our God and Savior Jesus.

Point Two: The Power of Teaching. (2 Timothy 2:2)

2 Timothy 2:2 "and what you have heard from me in the presence of many witnesses entrust to faithful men, who will be able to teach others also."

Consider the powerful place of WORDS and how they will influence your legacy. Paul says this, "The things you have heard me say in the presence of many witnesses, entrust those things to reliable men who will also be qualified to teach others." V. 2. This is exactly how leaving a legacy works. Paul teaches Timothy, Timothy then teaches others who are (1) reliable (2) dependable and (3) qualified to pass these things along to others.

I believe that Jesus was very careful about who He chose to be His followers. That doesn't mean they were perfect. One of them completely walked away from Jesus. The one He picked to be the leader denied him 3 times. But 11 stuck with Him and learned from Him and if not for their legacy we would not be here today. Can you imagine having a legacy like that? Ask yourself, who will be walking with the Lord, 20 years after I'm gone? Or 50 or 100 years or will our lives simply be forgotten? Men, our job is to teach our children and grandchildren so that they, in turn will do the same. The legacy Paul left is still intact 2000 years later. Now how do we make this kind of impact? The answer is often found in the words we speak.

James 3:1-5 (Print out verses)

“Not many of you should become teachers, my brothers, for you know that we who teach will be judged with greater strictness. **2** For we all stumble in many ways. And if anyone does not stumble in what he says, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle his whole body. **3** If we put bits into the mouths of horses so that they obey us, we guide their whole bodies as well. **4** Look at the ships also: though they are so large and are driven by strong winds, they are guided by a very small rudder wherever the will of the pilot directs. **5** So also the tongue is a small member, yet it boasts of great things.”

James tells us that while the tongue is a small part of the body, it has great power. He compares the tongue to 3 things. (1) He compares it to a FIRE. (2) He compares it to a BIT we place in a horse's mouth. (3) He compares it to a RUDDER on a ship. Now think of the power here. A small fire has the potential to cause huge damage. One spark can burn a forest down. That bit, while small can control a large horse and send him in the right direction or in the wrong direction. The rudder though very small can control a large ship and again it can be turned in a good direction or in a dangerous direction. It all depends on the captain, the one driving the boat. James goes on to say “with the tongue we praise our Lord and with it we also curse men.” It depends on how we use it but either way it has great power.

Dan Benson, in his book *The Total Man*, verifies that fact with a rather disturbing statistic. After an extensive survey was taken, it was found that for one positive statement made in the homes that were surveyed, there were 10 negatives—10 to one!

Point Three: Staying Focused (2 Timothy 2:3-7)

“**3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him. **5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops. **7** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

We must stay focused on the task before us. Vv.3-7. Let me ask you, are you focused? I believe it's harder to be focused today than ever before. I read this week—

Motorola engineer Martin Cooper rang his chief rival from a street in New York on April 3, 1973. Now there are more mobile subscriptions than people on the planet. There are now more active cell phones in the world than there are people. There were more than 8.58 billion mobile subscriptions to use worldwide in 2022, compared to a global

populations of 7.95 billion. April 2023. That is not total . . . that is every minute. It has become very difficult to stay focused.

“The more social media we have the more we think we are connect yet, we really are disconnecting from each other.”

This is as of Friday there are more than 4.5 billion web pages. There are now more active cellphones in the US than there are people. One more. FaceBook has over 200,000 pictures uploaded every ??? That is not total...that is every minute. It has become very difficult to stay focused.

We live in the age of information but most of us would agree that it is really the age of misinformation. Whatever opinion you want on anything, for it or against it you can find it on the internet. Because of that, focus becomes crucial. We can't do everything; we can't be involved in everything. So Paul gives us several models to follow. Consider some examples you should follow: vs 3-7

(1) **a soldier.** Vs 3-4- “**3** Share in suffering as a good soldier of Christ Jesus. **4** No soldier gets entangled in civilian pursuits, since his aim is to please the one who enlisted him.”

Listen to what he says, “no one serving as a soldier gets involved in civilian matters.” A soldier has one goal—here it is---to please his commanding officer. You see his opinion is the only one that really matters.

(2) **an athlete.** Vs 5-6 - “**5** An athlete is not crowned unless he competes according to the rules. **6** It is the hard-working farmer who ought to have the first share of the crops.”

He says “he does not receive the victor’s crown unless he competes according to the rules. If an athlete fails to follow the rules he is then disqualified. Paul tells us that life is often like a race and that we must run that race with patience. We must get rid of anything that will trip us up in life---he says to lay aside every sin and to fix our eyes on Jesus because He is the author and the finisher of our faith.

(3) **a farmer.** Vs 7 - “**7** Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything.”

Maybe you have raised a garden before. Not something I do but I have enjoyed things from several of you who have them. I understand it can be work. However it is another thing altogether to be a farmer who completely depends on the soil for his living. They plant and harvest but there is a lot more as well...they must till the soil, kill insects,

disease that gets in the crops, worry about too much rain or too little rain, the wind...all of these are factors. So there are not many people who work harder than a farmer does, especially during the growing season. And if he doesn't focus and really pay attention there will not be food on his table. However, if he does what he needs to do Paul says he should be the first one to receive a share of the crops.

So to focus,

1. We need to be like the soldier and put our focus on the commanding officer Jesus Christ—obedience based Discipleship.
2. We need to be like the athlete and be disciplined following the rules, focusing I'm laying aside any distractions or things that would hinder us from focusing on the prize at the finish line.
3. Or be like the farmer and your reward is in the fruit of the crop, harvest, etc. is \$50.

Point Four: The Need for Wisdom (2 Timothy 2:7) "7 Think over what I say, for the Lord will give you understanding in everything."

Consider the need for wisdom. V. 7.

READ Proverbs 4:5-7. "5 Get wisdom; get insight; do not forget, and do not turn away from the words of my mouth. 6 Do not forsake her, and she will keep you; love her, and she will guard you. 7 The beginning of wisdom is this: Get wisdom, and whatever you get, get insight.

Dads need wisdom. Easy is not a word we would use today to describe the role Dads play in the family. The role of today's dad is very complicated. Paul says reflect and pray on these things. Ask God to give you the insight/understanding you need.

Quote David Jeremiah:

"This is a time when all of God's people need to keep their eyes and their Bible wide open. We must ask God for discernment as never before."

He says consider these individuals, the soldier who faces battle, the athlete who must train every day and the farmer who must patiently labor day after day that as we do we will see results. We will see these results in our own lives and we will see the difference they make in others. What do they share in common? Endurance, patience, hard work.

Conclusion

NIMRODS

What will be your Legacy?

Portrait of a father in the home.

1 Thessalonians 2:9-12.

“9 For you remember, brothers, our labor and toil: we worked night and day, that we might not be a burden to any of you, while we proclaimed to you the gospel of God. 10 You are witnesses, and God also, how holy and righteous and blameless was our conduct toward you believers. 11 For you know how, like a father with his children, 12 we exhorted each one of you and encouraged you and charged you to walk in a manner worthy of God, who calls you into his own kingdom and glory.”

Five wonderful traits of a father.

1. A fond affection. verse 8,
 2. A transparent life. verse 8.
 3. An unselfish diligence., verse 9.
 4. A spiritual Authenticity, verses 9-10.
 5. A positive influence, verses 11-12.
- (from "Growing Wise in Family Life by Charles R. Swindoll)

REVIEW:

4 Things we must consider if we plan to leave a godly legacy.

1. The Role of Grace
2. The Power of Teaching
3. Staying Focused
4. The Need for Wisdom

HAPPY FATHER'S to all fathers.

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