Building a Spiritual Legacy

*Chosen: A Study in the Life of David*

Text: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

June 19, 2011 (Father’s Day)

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**Message Notes**

What is the most valuable and greatest legacy you could leave for your children and grandchildren?

**Read:** 2 Samuel 7:1-17

**David’s deepest desire was to encourage worship of God.** David loved to be in the presence of God. In his later years, he committed all his energies to raising the money and assembling the materials needed to construct a temple to the Lord in Jerusalem. While Solomon actually built the temple, David drew up the temple plans, organized the tasks of the priests and Levites who would minister there, and energized the nation to undertake the project.

David wanted to do something great for God, and God did something far greater for him. **David wants to build a house for God; God instead intends to build David’s house.** In other words, he wants to bless David and help him to create a lasting spiritual legacy. God’s priority for David was to build a lasting spiritual legacy – generation after generation who would lead Israel in the way that God wanted.

Sometimes we try to give ourselves to things that seem right but which do not reflect God’s priority. We are all too bound by the present time and fail to realize that with us, as with David, God’s purposes for our lives reach into the future...reach into future generations.

David’s spirit is revealed in the fact that he was willing to lay foundations on which others would ultimately have the privilege of building – namely his son, Solomon. David did not build the temple of the Lord firsthand, but he prepared everything and equipped his son, Solomon, with all that was needed to build the temple – the dwelling place of God, a place of worship.

There’s a lesson here for us, too. In the OT, the temple was the dwelling place of God. Through the work of Christ, God’s dwelling place changed. Acts 17:24 (NIV84) —24 *The God who made the world and everything in it is the Lord of heaven and earth and does not live in temples built by hands.*

So where does God dwell? Do you remember one of the pivotal events that happened at the moment that Christ breathed his last and died on that Cross? Mark 15:38 (NIV84) —38 *The curtain of the temple was torn in two from top to bottom.*

1 Corinthians 3:16–17 (NIV84) —16 *Don’t you know that you yourselves are God’s temple and that God's Spirit lives in you?* 17 *If anyone destroys God’s temple, God will destroy him; for God’s temple is sacred, and you are that temple.*

The lesson we learn from David’s example is that **we need to be concerned with helping our children build a temple for the Lord within their lives.** We need to use our resources, the way we live our lives, in order to prepare and equip them to build a temple for the Lord within their lives. This is the greatest legacy you can leave for your children – a spiritual legacy.
What is a spiritual legacy? The goal of a spiritual legacy is to give the child a solid foundation and building materials for living a confident spiritual life. **A spiritual legacy is the process whereby parents model and reinforce the unseen realities and disciplines of the spiritual life.**

A spiritual legacy is not church attendance – though this can strengthen it; not Bible reading – though scriptural principles are a vital part of it; not formal religious instruction – though the absence of such will cause a major void. All of these contribute to the spiritual legacy, yet none of them single-handedly defines it.

**A spiritual legacy is influenced far more by the parents’ actions and attitudes** than by the roles and rules of institutions or religious practices.

The word legacy means *something resulting from, and left behind by, an action, event, or person* – Webster’s Dictionary. In other words, a **spiritual legacy is more what we do than what we say.** By our actions, we model the spiritual elements in our lives for our world—and our children—to see.

**A spiritual legacy is a process, not an event.** The legacy is created through years of consistent, sacrificial, and committed effort on the part of the parent(s).

**Parents model and reinforce a spiritual legacy.** That is what David tried to do for Solomon. Near the end of David’s life, he addresses Solomon: 1 Chronicles 28:9–10 (NIV84) — 9 *“And you, my son Solomon, acknowledge the God of your father, and serve him with wholehearted devotion and with a willing mind, for the Lord searches every heart and understands every motive behind the thoughts. If you seek him, he will be found by you; but if you forsake him, he will reject you forever. 10 Consider now, for the Lord has chosen you to build a temple as a sanctuary. Be strong and do the work.”*

**Spiritual realities are more caught than taught;** children observe the parents and see the truth of the spiritual life in action. **A strong spiritual legacy is modeled, not mandated.** It occurs in the routine moments of life and is transferred in the interactions of daily life. **A solid spiritual legacy is more about the daily grind than it is weekly worship.** Our children need to observe the spiritual life as part of normal living rather than an 1½ hour event on Sunday.

One never knows the impact a solid spiritual legacy may have in the lives of our children, or beyond. Your children may reject the legacy either temporarily or completely. **Your duty is only to present them with the truth and leave the results with God.**

**A Strong Spiritual Legacy...**
- Acknowledges and reinforces spiritual realities.
- Views God as a personal, caring being who is to be both loved and respected.
- Makes spiritual activities a routine aspect of life (church attendance, prayer, Scripture reading, witnessing, etc.)
- Clarifies timeless truth, right from wrong.
- Incorporates spiritual principles into everyday living.
- Provides, through personal example, the tools and resources the next generation needs to build a strong spiritual life.
- Is not created by accident. It takes intentional and purposeful prayer, planning and modeling.

Joshua 24:15 (NIV84) — 15 *“But if serving the Lord seems undesirable to you, then choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve. But as for me and my household, we will serve the Lord.”*
LifeGroup Lesson

Suggested Meeting Plan:
1) Fellowship & Snacks (30 minutes)
2) LifeGroup Discussion (20-30 minutes)
   a) Review Message: briefly review the main points of the message (5-10 minutes)
   b) Discussion Questions (15-20 minutes)
3) Prayer for Needs (10 minutes)
   a) Write prayer needs/praise reports into a spiral bound notebook.
   b) Encourage members to lead in prayer for one of the needs.
4) Dismiss/Additional Fellowship

Discussion Questions:

Ice-Breaker Question: What kind of “Spiritual Legacy” did your parents leave for you? How has that affected (positively or negatively) your spiritual life?

Read: 2 Samuel 7:1-17

1. What stood out to you the most from this passage of scripture?

2. The overall theme of this message highlighted the need to pass on a strong spiritual legacy to our children and/or grandchildren. Why is this type of legacy often overlooked or not well attended to?

3. Pastor Kelly said, “A spiritual legacy is influenced far more by the parents’ actions and attitudes than by the roles and rules of institutions or religious practices.” Do you agree? Why or why not?

4. A solid spiritual legacy is more about the daily grind than it is weekly worship. Why? How have you seen this to be true?

5. A spiritual legacy is more what we do than what we say. What are some things we can do to equip our children and/or grandchildren with the tools and resources they need to develop a confident spiritual life?

6. Modeling a strong spiritual life for your children and/or grandchildren may not necessarily mean that they will follow your spiritual legacy. What do you think about that statement? How have you seen this to be true?

7. What is something that you will start doing today to apply this message to your life and leave a strong spiritual legacy for your children and grandchildren?