

Leaving an Heir, Leaving a Legacy

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Introduction.

- A. I want to speak of leaving a spiritual heir.
- B. This is crucial in the area of leaving a legacy.
- C. We live on the basis of God's promises to us, not our promises to God.
- D. My family is claiming Judges 6:16 this year in light of the challenges we have
- E. Prayer.
 - 1. Thank you Father for blessing each one of us.
 - 2., Help us to be a blessing to others.
 - 3. Speak to each of us individually to understand what you want us to do.
 - 4. Help us to respond.

I. Why leave a spiritual heir?

- A. The speaker reads the text. (Judges 2:6-19)
 - 1. Israel failed to take the land and God refused to drive out their enemies.
 - 2. Israel turned to idols.
 - 3. God would send an oppressor and Israel would cry out.
 - 4. Then God would send a deliverer to save Israel but they later turned again to sin.
- B. The ignorance of the generation that came after Joshua took the land is disturbing.
 - 1. They did not know the person of the Lord.
 - 2. They didn't even know what God had done for them.
 - 3. Redemptive history is crucial to knowing the Lord.
 - 4. Idolatry fills the void when knowledge of God prevails.
 - 5. I try to help my daughter to see that even non-Christians have a faith, though it is not based on truth.
- C. After ignorance of the Lord came defeat in Israel as God was against them.

1. This downward spiral goes on around us all the time.
2. The reason for this problem is rooted in the ignorance of the new generation. (verse 10)
3. How could they have failed to pass on their faith to the next generation?
 - a. The book of Joshua is a book of victory following the death of Moses.
 - b. The book of Judges is a book of defeat following the death of Joshua.
 - c. When men and women of God fail to leave spiritual heirs defeat follows.
4. How does this situation turn around?
 - a. After Judges comes the kingdom under David.
 - b. Two women turn the nation around; Ruth and Hannah.
 - c. There is no genealogy in Judges but with Ruth a significant genealogy leads to David.
 - d. We know the story of Ruth because someone wrote the story, probably in the time of David.
 - e. Ruth must have passed on the experiences of her life.
 - f. Hannah cried out for a spiritual heir and must have told her story to Samuel or someone close who could write it down.
 - g. These two women were not full-time workers for God but they walked with him in the ordinary circumstances of life.

II. How do we leave a spiritual heir?

A. Clarifying our legacy is important first of all. (Ecclesiastes 12:9-12)

1. The teacher was wise and he passed his knowledge on to others.
2. Many of us here have years of wisdom that needs to be passed on to others.
3. The teacher searched out words to communicate what God taught him.
4. Mary pondered the things Gabriel told her (Luke 2)
5. We need to clarify the things God has taught us.
6. Don't let the years go by without identifying the key lessons God has taught you.
7. Words of the wise are like goads that drive animals.

8. There needs to be a point to our words.
9. These words are given by one shepherd;
 - a. They need to be Christ centered.
 - b. They need to be simple.

B. Investing in a person is important.

1. Jesus trained the twelve.
2. Paul trained Timothy and Titus.
 - a. Choices need to be made; Paul chose to focus on Titus. (2 Corinthians 2:12-13)
 - b. Choosing means that some great opportunities will not be taken.
 - c. We need to think of how many apples are in a seed.
 - d. If the right opportunities are nurtured great harvests can be gained from one seed or person.
 - b. Paul had a vision for what God could do through Titus. (2 Corinthians 7:5-7)
 - f. We have a responsibility to develop potential in people. (2 Timothy 2:2)
 - g. We need to invest our time in the right people.
 - h. Paul saw God do a miracle in Titus' heart. (2 Corinthians 8:16-17)
 - i. Paul played a part but God did the work.
 - ii. We need to play a part in the lives of our spiritual heirs.
 - e. Paul transmitted something to Titus. (2 Corinthians 12:18)
 - a. Titus exhibited the same spirit as Paul.
 - b. In Paul's absence Titus ministered.
 - c. What needs to happen in your disciples before they will imitate you?
 - d. I am interested in tracing those who went before me that paid a price to pass on a spiritual legacy to me.
3. We all need to run the race God has placed us in and we need to leave a spiritual heir.