Daily Devotion #135

Leaving A Legacy

*Proverbs 13:22 (NASB) “A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, And the wealth of the sinner is stored up for the righteous.”*

Most people spend their entire lives building treasures for themselves on this earth. How many stories have we heard of people who made millions or more, only to want more? Never satisfied with what they have.

But riches will never satisfy. The sinful heart is too desperate for material wealth. Riches may satisfy the external life, but they will never satisfy the inner man. Even King Solomon, in all his glory and with all his riches, understood by the end of his life that all the things this world affords are vanity - a chasing after the wind. (Eccl 1:14) And by the way, Solomon is believed to have accumulated a wealth equal to over two trillion dollars in today’s world.

So what’s the point? Why spend so much time making money or earning something that will only pass away? Most people who are well off financially will say it’s because they don’t want their children to be without which is the way many of them were raised. They believe it is better to leave their family the means to never have to struggle. So they will have a “better” life. But all too often, when people receive riches from a loved one, they only want more or wonder why it wasn’t more. They become spoiled and think they are owed something. They can’t be satisfied.

Struggling to make ends meet is often where we find God. He is in the struggle with us, working to make our ends meet, doing the things we cannot do. It is in the struggle that we find our faith growing. And it is in the struggle that we find how much our God loves us and is willing to help us. It is through our struggles that our children see God working in and through us. Our struggles help others know and understand that without God we can do nothing. God takes the center stage in our struggles. He becomes the One who receives the glory, not us.

So ask yourself, what is better? Certainly, we would all agree that our role as parents or grandparents is to make sure our children and grandchildren are cared for. But caring for them is more than money and material things. The legacy we should leave to them is more than fame or power or influence in business or sports or whatever. The lasting legacy that will make the most impact on our families is a legacy of godliness.

As many of you know, my father is in his last days on earth. He has been a wonderful provider for me over the years and a help in times that I have needed him. His heart for others has been astounding as he has always been more concerned about helping them have what they need. I remember him and my mom providing bicycles to children who had none. I remember them helping people pay their bills. I remember them helping churches survive financially. I remember them selling land at a low price so others could have a place to call their own.

All of those events and gifts make me excited to be a child of my mom and dad. But the greatest joy I have is not the legacy of having material support or watching them do things for others because ungodly people can also be kind and benevolent. They can help others in amazing ways without the motive of honoring God.

Doing what we do out of obedience to God is the legacy that has an eternal effect. What is better? A legacy of things or a legacy of godliness that fills your heart with love and joy for others, seeing them come to Christ and serving Him. Think about these truths as you work hard today – why are you doing so? Is it to leave things as your legacy, or is it to be able to serve others with the blessings that God has given to you?