The Value and Importance of Legacy

Ecclesiastes 7:1

A good name is better than precious ointment, and the day of death than the day of birth.

Proverbs 13:22

A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children, but the sinner's wealth is laid up for the righteous.

2 Chronicles 21:20

He was thirty-two years old when he began to reign, and he reigned eight years in Jerusalem. And he departed with no one's regret. They buried him in the city of David, but not in the tombs of the kings.

Legacy – What Does it Mean?

- Making an impact that will last after you are gone
- Passing on your values to the next generation
- Not physical, but a deposit in your heart – a life advantage
- One can leave a good, bad, or neutral legacy

Legacy – Various Aspects of Leaving One

- Life – Your parents gave you life and you are giving life to the next generation.
- Intentionality – What do you want it to be? Plan for it.
- Be an example of a legacy
- Faithfulness – Keep renewing your calling; Living legacy
- Plan/Anticipate – Think about the long range impact of your legacy

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- Memories – What will the next generation remember? What would you like them to remember? Write the stories.

- Tell Stories – Tell them again, and again, and again

  - Psalm 71:17-18 "O God, from my youth you have taught me, and I still proclaim your wondrous deeds. So even to old age and gray hairs, O God, do not forsake me, until I proclaim your might to another generation, your power to all those to come."

- Church/Community

- Preparing for your last days – "Last words are lasting words"

- Share Desires

- Pray – for your kids, grandkids, and generations you will not see

Genesis 50:15-26

Biblical illustration of leaving a legacy – Joseph

Questions to Ponder

- When you think of "legacy", what comes to mind?

- What in life prepares you to think about and to prepare for "legacy"?

- If you are younger, do you find yourself wanting to be with those older in life who might influence you concerning the substance of what "legacy" might mean?

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