

Extraordinary Sermon Series part 8

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A LEGACY WORTH LEAVING

Legacy Quiz [slide]

Retirement:

- Enjoying retirement? So I have been thinking.
- Bret Favre of ministerial retirement, Bill Cunningham (3X), “You’ll do fine for the first 3 wks.” I don’t know how to take that, but Bill’s the expert.
- “Busier than ever.”
 - Same honey-do list, fewer excuses.
 - I heard about the man who wanted to enjoy his 1st 3 wks. Wife: “What doing?” Nothing. Same yesterday. “Not finished.”
- My definition of retired person: Someone with a great future behind him.
- ?Remember Larry Wiseman, “Let us grow old together”?
 - How many got that assignment?
 - I did 3-21-99. I have definitely fulfilled it: more wrinkles, less hair.
- Advantages to being my age vs when started salaried ministry 50 yrs ago.
 - In a hostage situation you are likely to be released first.
 - No one expects you to run into a burning building.
 - Your secrets are safe with your friends because they can't remember them either.
- Many changes since 3-21-99. If some said to you 10 years ago... would you not have thought the person a crackpot? In 2010 . . .
 - Saints [who can't even make playoffs] will win Super Bowl
 - US gov will own GM
 - Man with middle name of Hussein will be Pres
 - Bill & Hillary will still be together
 - Al & Tipper will be separated
 - Butler U would come within 6 inches of winning NCAA basketball title.
 - An Indiana Pacer will join the Lakers and be the difference maker that leads the Lakers to their 16th NBA title.
 - Remember in 2000 Pacers were playing Lakers for NBA title and gave them worst single game defeat? How times have changed.
- Some things have not changed in 11 years.
 - Colts still winning: won more NFL games in decade than any team in history.
 - Lakers still winning: 5 NBA titles since Joyce and I have been at CCC
 - Gospel is still saving record numbers world-wide.
 - God’s love still flows like a river at CCC
 - God still calls us to leave a worthy legacy.
- **A Legacy Worth Leaving**
 - You will leave a legacy: children, friends, church, community.
 - Legacy may appear on your tombstone.

- Harry Edsel Smith of Albany, New York: Born 1903-Died 1942
Looked up the elevator shaft to see if the car was on the way down. It was.
 - On the grave of Ezekial Aikle in East Dalhousie Cemetery, Nova Scotia: Here lies Ezekial Aikle, Age 102. The Good Die Young.
 - In a Ribbesford, England, cemetery: Anna Wallace: The children of Israel wanted bread, And the Lord sent them manna. Old clerk Wallenstein wanted a wife, And the Devil sent him Anna.
 - In a Silver City, Nevada, cemetery: Here lays The Kid. We planted him raw. He was quick on the trigger But slow on the draw.
 - You will leave a legacy. Will your legacy be a worthy legacy?
 - We are all benefitting from the worthy legacies left by others ahead of us. One Am has left us a legacy about leaving a legacy.
- When MA was asked to place one statue in the Hall of Fame in Capitol in D.C., they chose the man the many historians consider to be second in stature only to Geo Wash.
 - Historian Phillip Johnson: First Great American
 - Clue: Name is John
(Circle name in your bulletin: Hancock, Hansen, Winthrop, Edwards)
 - David Grubbs, CLA, “Even secular historians marvel at his kindness, wisdom and leadership, agreeing that he was one of the princes of our civilization.”
 - Not John Hancock, first Pres of our country, although effect pres. (gov of MA several times).
 - Not John Hansen, first Pres of new national govern under the Articles of Confed. Effective president
 - Not John Edwards, great MA preacher, initiator of Great Awakening which brought Am together spiritually and then, politically.
- John Winthrop devoted his life to leaving a legacy for his children, church & country.
 - Result, first major Puritan settlement in 1630. (700 to 20,000)
 - At 42 left England because of influence of godless culture on his children.
 - Lawyer, who almost single handedly sustained, out of own pocket
 - Early preachers liken to Moses, Nehemiah. Diary for legacy
 - Inspired people for generations to follow the Lord
- Winthrop called everyone to leave a legacy.
 - ?”We shall be like a City upon a Hill: the eyes of all people are on us”?
 - Bulletin: Original American Dream? Example of biblically based society.
 - Arbella. Probably heard by our ancestors. Groton.
 - Joyce’s line carried that legacy forward.
 - I want to give you the same call Winthrop gave on Arbella.
 - Return to the Am Dream: leaving a legacy of godly living.
 - **Jesus, Mt 5:14 You are the light of the world. A city set on a hill cannot be hid. . . . Let your light shine before men....”**
- You have inherited a world-changing legacy in gospel?
 - Nothing has changed this world as dramatically as the gospel.
 - No world religion
 - ❖ Not Karma: must pay for all your sins,
 - ❖ Not Nirvana: highest good is extinction
 - ❖ Not Allah: determinism, no real freedom

- No political system
 - No grand idea
 - You have the only message that
 - erases the past,
 - fully developed concept of love,
 - promise of real heaven, not extinction
 - you can know you are saved
 - know God personally,
 - God living within you.
 - Gospel has change society wherever it has been practiced? Equality, human rights, women's rights, freedom, security, peace, democracy, technology, education, safety, justice, law, stable society, moral living, prosperity
 - Gospel, our original Am Dream, is the source for all the values we seek.
 - Are you excited about your world changing legacy?
- When was the last time you thought about your legacy?
 - People spend the least time on the most important questions of life? Microscope. Look to the sky.
 - Investing in your legacy can get away from you.
 - When young, life is a marathon. Before you know it, its 100m dash.
 - JC Hoskins, "A visit to the local cemetery one day, got my thoughts stirring as I strolled on my way. Each Headstone marked the passing of a life gone by with a date for their birth, and a date when they died. A date at the beginning and a date at the Last. Is this all that can be to a life gone past? A date, a dash, a date, that's it? Somehow life's story just doesn't fit. It all comes down to that one little mark that separates our birth and the day we depart. In the wink of an eye our life is a flash. So it's important to think: "How will we spend our dash."
- My dash has included 50 yrs wonderful years of salaried ministry.
 - Served with wonderful Christians, churches and institutions
 - God's people are the best: CA, LA, TX, IN. Inner city or suburb. Seminary, Christian School or church. New churches or churches 163.
 - You have made my dash wonderful.
 - Praising Lord daily for our journey together for 11 yrs.
 - Loving, caring people
 - Elders who love and serve us
 - Partnership with God-honoring fellow preachers
 - Loving HF would have met weekly for 11 yrs.
 - Serving the Lord has been a gain, not a sacrifice.
 - My partner in ministry has made my dash especially wonderful
 - Next to Lord, my most important life decision I made in seminary.
 - Privilege of serving together on the same campus in churches, schools and seminaries from California to Ohio and points in between.

God Is Calling You to Think "Legacy"

- Winthrop was right.
 - You are a light bearer.
 - Let your light shine so coming generations will see it.
- God has always called His people to think..."future generations."
 - Last week **Genesis 12:3, "In you all families of the earth shall be blessed."**

- 4 gen. ahead **Joel 1:3 "Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."**
- Bible looks ahead to generations unborn: **Ps 102:18 "This will be written for the generation to come that a people yet to be created may praise Y."**
- **Hebrews 12:1 "Since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us . . . let us run with endurance the race that is set before us."**
 - We are runners in a relay race surrounded by generations of witnesses.
 - Run with endurance: Don't drop the baton.
- "A legacy is a terrible thing to waste."
 - Passing the baton of a godly legacy is a decision of each person & generation.
 - England received the great legacy of Puritan reform: Winthrop, Wesley, Wilberforce, Wm Booth
 - Legacy of moral character, love for Christ, kingdom first living, Biblical worldview, world evangelism.
 - Radically change the entire society.
 - Became the greatest missionary nation: David Livingstone, Robert Moffatt, John Wesley, Francis Asbury, William Carey, Eric Liddell, Gladys Aylward.
 - England dropped the baton.
 - "This past week in Great Britain, at least 15,000 Christian foreign missionaries were hard at work evangelizing the locals. Most of these missionaries are from Africa and Asia."⁶
 - Last Sunday "more Presbyterians were in church in Ghana than in Scotland."⁵
 - Europe also dropped the baton.
 - At the beginning of the 20th century, about 71% of professing Christians in the world lived in Europe.
 - Last Sunday . . . more Christian believers attended church in China than in all of so-called 'Christian Europe.'
 - Kenya has more people in Christian churches on Sunday than Canada.
 - The legacy continues, but not in the country of Winthrop, Wesley, Wilberforce and Wm Booth.
 - Where is Am?
 - In terms of % ch attendance, Am today is where England was when I was born.
 - Will we pass along the baton of a godly legacy or go the way of England?
- One song captures the Biblical perspective of legacy: Find Us Faithful, Steve Green.
 - (Heb 12:1 Therefore, since we have so great a cloud of witnesses surrounding us, let us also lay aside every encumbrance...) Race on a narrow road.
 - "We're pilgrims on the journey Of the narrow road And those who've gone before us line the way Cheering on the faithful, encouraging the weary, Their lives a stirring testament to God's sustaining grace.
 - Surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses Let us run the race not only for the prize But as those who've gone before us Let us leave to those behind us The heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives.
 - Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful. May the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave Lead them to believe And the lives we live inspire them to obey. Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful.

- After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone And our children sift through all we've left behind May the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover Become the light that leads them to the road we each must find. Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful
 - Song calls us to fire up our devotion so we can light the way.
 - Does your devotion inspire others to obey?
 - Resolve to pass on the baton left to you.
 - Your legacy will matter to you.
 - ⊖ What legacy have I left my children and grandchildren?
 - Rod Beheler, NT Church of Christ, Hagerstown IN, discipleship minister
 - Nathan Powell, Garrett, IN.
 - To see others carrying the baton is the most rewarding part of ministry.
- “How to’s” Look to your models.
- **Do not retire from the kingdom**
 - Abraham called at 75. Ruth Van Horn, became an overseas missionary at 74.
 - Worked way thru CBS by washing, cleaning, iron and child care during Depression.
 - Married man who became preacher in KY, OH, IN, until 1965.
 - Raised 2 children.
 - Taught 3rd-4th grades as worked on weekends & summer toward degree.
 - Taught 30 years. Retired. Dr. Boone. Dr. Shields. F-T 4 years at Noblesville Court House.
 - Mission trip 1989. Eventually, 9-10 months/yr. Teach women, started soup kitchen, teach children in home, comforted at infirmary, trained women life skills.
 - VBS & camp in USA summers
 - 1991 heart valve replacement.
 - CCC & Mission Jamaica 7 acres. 2001, 40 from CCC to build 4 Rds CCC. Later, CCC built school for free ed.
 - Congestive heart failure, curvature of spine, knee surgery, deafness—but she did not retire.
 - Do not retire from kingdom until the Lord retires you.
 - **Start immediately. Teen age is not too early.**
 - Craig Black
 - My walk formed by a teenage more than any adult
 - He was passing on a legacy to me which I have used for 50 yrs.
 - Met on tennis team in HS. Only Christian I knew.
 - Shared his walk with Lord. Sermon notes, Christian books, Bible studies, Navigators scripture memorization, helping people (anon.)
 - Zack Pieper (Campus Outreach to Purdue); Joel Ladd (China); Amber Wolf (Ire) Grad school spiritual formation. Get connected with one. Follow, pray for, support.
 - Teens: start now. Who knows who you will reach? I am carrying the baton given me by a teenager.
 - **Invest in the lives of special people.**
 - J.I. Willard & Betha invested in family
 - Children in Christian service.
 - Brother Dallas, not sure whether to go to college.

- Eventually, USC for 45 years.
 - Worldwide ministry. Affecting lives of multiple thousands. John Ortberg, top expert in Spiritual formation.
 - 16 men
 - Invest your life in special people. Who know what God will do with the baton you pass along?
- **Put yourself in places of service.** e.g. VBS, children or youth,
 - Lydia Abbott. Heard w. Good Twins 5-26-10?
 - 1964 attending Talbot Theological Seminary. P-t y.m. at new church in Fullerton, California.
 - 8 year old Jet Cadet in my youth group. Bob Abbott
 - 9 yrs later, at CBS, prof.
 - Married Bob & Carla. Bob became a preacher. 8 children.
 - Bob & worked together in a new church. I was Lydia preacher, too.
 - Lydia had interest in missions. Saved \$10,000 in HS.
 - Language school in MX.
 - Now 22--Mexico, Haiti, India, Guatemala, Cuba, Domin. Repub
 - I got to see God work because I was in a place of service.
 - I was just passing on the baton Craig Black & others gave me.
 - Put self in places of service.
- Grasp tightly the baton from those who have led the way.
 - During the Depression a farmer name Joshua raised 6 children on a farm in Morgan County outside Centerton, Indiana--no water, no elect, little money, but plenty of opportunity to learn discipline, diligence and team-work.
 - Family lost the farm through bankruptcy, but the family did not lose the baton.
 - **Joel 1:3 "Tell your children of it, and let your children tell their children, and their children another generation."**
 - Joshua read Bible every day and insisted that the children did also.
 - Moved into the city and attended First Christian Church Martinsville.
 - One son remembers that upon his graduation from grammar school, his father gave him a list of 7 principles. He carried these in his wallet rest of his life.
 1. Be true to yourself
 2. Make each day your masterpiece.
 3. Help others.
 4. Drink deeply from good books, especially the Bible. (Son became an English major in college.)
 5. Make friendship a fine art.
 6. Build a shelter against a rainy day.
 7. Pray for guidance and give thanks for your blessings every day.
 - The next year that son went on to play high school basketball.
 - Martinsville HS state champ & runner up. All-state.
 - Purdue nat. champ & player of year
 - Coached HS for 11 yrs Dayton & South Bend
 - After WWII, Terre Haute
 - In 1948 young school in California was needy.
 - Never won an NCAA title in anything
 - Only 3 winning seasons in 17 yrs of basketball
 - Court smaller than Indiana high school gym.

- Smart school. Get a Hoosier
 - Coach also smart: prayed for guidance and Lord led him to the school that would become the top sports school in Am.
 - 4 undefeated seasons, 10 NCAA titles (vs 4), 7 in row, 88 game,
 - Hall of fame as player & coach
 - Greatest Coach of 20th Century
 - Better person than a coach
 - Presidential Medal of Freedom
 - In Indiana, developed Pyramid of Success which he has never changed. It has permeated the UCLA.
 - UCLA women 11th softball title.
 - Pyramid is character traits for living
- Passed on his legacy. *They Call Me Coach*, “... **I always tried to make it clear that basketball is not the ultimate. It is of small importance in comparison to the total life we live. There is only one kind of a life that truly wins, and that is the one that places faith in the hands of the Savior. Until that is done, we are on an aimless course that runs in circles and goes nowhere. Material possessions, winning scores, and great reputations are meaningless in the eyes of the Lord, because He knows what we really are and that is all that matters.”**
 - According to one biographer, Wooden read the Bible daily, attended the First Christian Church and deeply loved his wife of 53 years, to whom he was loyal till his death this month.
 - Wooden was a success, not because of basketball, but because he received and passed on the gospel legacy given by parents.
 - Grasp tightly the baton you have been given from those who have gone before you.
- Another one who is currently passing the baton from his parents is Tony Dungy
 - Colts the top franchise in sports, most wins in any 10 year period.
 - Chapter on his legacy in *Quiet Strength*, 2007, called “Growing up Dungy,”
 - Pts out his bro & sisters are more successful, “The three of them are definitely a living tribute to our parents and their values.”
 - “It’s hard to overestimate the importance of the lessons my parents taught me—lessons that have molded and shaped me.” (Promoted education. Mother, MA. Father, Ph.D.) “There is one gift they bestowed that I would place above all the others: faith.”
 - Dungy and his siblings passed the legacy baton from Wilbur and Cleo Mae.
 - Now passing on to his children and to the imprisoned and to others.
 - Written 3 books to use in teaching children and adults who did not inherit a Christian legacy
 - **Ps 102:18 “This will be written for the generation to come that a people yet to be created may praise the Lord.”**
- A single mother who is faithful to gospel can change a world. This mother passed the baton to her a son whom she raised in a mid west city just north of Indiana.
 - Medical history maker who’s received over 50 honorary doctorate degrees. And in 2008, Dr. Carson was awarded the presidential medal of freedom, the nation’s highest civilian honor.
 - **Gifted Hands DVD. Cuba Gooding, Jr., stars as Dr. Carson. Story of faith in Christ, but really legacy of a mother.**

- Raised by a single mother in extreme poverty. Ben struggled in school. He called himself the "class dummy," after his mother taught him the importance of reading, he rose to the top. Significantly, Ben's mother was illiterate.
- Ben is passing on the legacy from his mother. "The most important thing for me is having a relationship with God. To know that the owner, the creator of the universe loves you, sent His Son to die for your sins, that's very empowering. Knowing Him and knowing that He loves me gives me encouragement and confidence to move forward."

Conclusion

- You are called to leave a legacy.
- Now is the time to think about what it will be.
- The investments you make today determine your legacy tomorrow.
- God has given you a wonderful legacy. Baton is in your hands.
- Is the fire of your devotion lighting the way?
- Time is running out, faster than you think. Your life is a dash, not marathon.
- Now is the time to invest.

As those who've gone before us Let us leave to those behind us the heritage of faithfulness passed on through godly lives. Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful. May the fire of our devotion light their way. May the footprints that we leave lead them to believe and the lives we live inspire them to obey. Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful.

After all our hopes and dreams have come and gone and our children sift through all we've left behind, may the clues that they discover and the memories they uncover become the light that leads them to the road we each must find. Oh may all who come behind us find us faithful

Invitation

- When you reach all your hopes and dreams, what will you have?
 - Your real dream and hope is peace, joy, and eternal life.
 - These come only when Christ is in charge.
- I am not going to ask you to make Jesus Lord.
 - Another question: Why would you not want Jesus to be in charge of every area of your life?
 - Do you believe you can do a better job of reaching peace, joy and life?
- Entering the kingdom, coming under the reign of the King
 - Trusting the King to be in charge of everything.
 - You have a throne room. Who will you place there?
- Jesus wants you to find life.
 - The lost believe Jesus wants to take, not give life.
 - Jesus does not want to take from you, but give you His life.
 - But first you have to be willing to loose yours.

