

## Legacy: Living a Life that Outlives You! - Part Three

Scripture used: Joshua 24:15 (NLT)

### OVERVIEW

This sermon series is called Legacy. We are struggling to understand The Big Question: What does it mean to make my mark in life? Joshua dealt with many challenges during his life, especially since he was the leader of the Israelites as they established themselves in the Promised Land. Later in life, he asked the Israelites to make an important choice: to serve the Lord, and to teach their family to serve Him as well. (Joshua 24:14, NLT) Faith is the most important thing that we can transmit to anyone else. Education, land, money, and all other forms of inheritance will eventually disappear. A relationship with Jesus is the only thing with no expiration date!

### KEY POINTS

- 1) *The end of life forces us to focus on what matters most.* Our colleagues from work will quickly forget us, and eventually even the members of our family will also move on. Only God will truly remember us. He wants us to be a part of His larger story. He wants us to willingly, happily choose to become His servants. This is what Joshua was trying to explain to the other Israelites. He knew they would end up serving someone, so he worked to make sure they chose correctly.
- 2) *God has already chosen us, and that is why we must choose Him.* Joshua wanted God's mark on his life, and the lives of his children. Without this faith, the family would not be able to make it through difficult times. Eventually everything else will crumble away, but God always remains faithful and loving when we choose Him.
- 3) *We must transmit this eternal truth to our children.* They will be lost if they do not know Jesus. That means we all have a responsibility to immediately find ways to share the knowledge of God with them in at least three different ways.
  - a. *Make our faith personal.* Forget any false picture of the "perfect family". Show children how you grapple with doubt, love, and grace. Deepening your own faith will strengthen the connection that your children will feel. (Deuteronomy 6:6-7, NIV). Help them see the connection between the time spent in worship with others at church, and your selfless behavior during the rest of the week.
  - b. *Fight for their hearts.* God does not always give us what we want. Sometimes the answer to a prayer is "No" or "Not yet". But God will never go back on His word. Every promise is kept. Each of us must share stories -- Biblical and personal -- about God's goodness and trustworthiness. These stories will help demonstrate the power of faith to those who are crying out for it.
  - c. *Focus on relationships, not rules.* Jesus can work miracles in the lives of anyone: Christian, Muslim, Hindu, atheist, whatever. Denominations do not matter, and we often use rules as a way to divide ourselves from each other. Contrast that attitude with one focusing on our relationship with Jesus. He has hand-picked each of us, and loves us with an ever-lasting love. Let's show that love to others!

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - Joshua directly challenged the Israelites by asking them to "choose today whom [they] will serve" Joshua 24:15 (NLT). What is your immediate answer to that question? Do you truly serve God?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - God chooses us every day no matter what we say, do, feel, or think. But the power of this relationship can only be activated when we consciously choose Him in return. How are you helping others understand what it means to choose God? In other words, how are you transmitting your faith?
- 3) **DO** - We are constantly falling short of God's glory and plans for us. That is a part of being broken flesh. But we can also choose to demonstrate our faith by acting out of love again, and again, and again. That is how we inspire our children to come to know Jesus. Recommit to this responsibility this week. Pray to God with the following request: "Lord, help show me how I can be used by You to bless the next generation!"