

Psalm 112

Legacy

There is a lot of talk these days about leaving a legacy

A)– what kind – how to What will it look like – never too late to start.

B)Leaving a legacy is something I hope you are interested in

C)Kids – gone spiritual kids – influence on others

I came across these great quotes about legacy

- The great use of life is to spend it for something that will outlast it. —William James
- Carve your name on hearts, not tombstones. A legacy is etched into the minds of others and the stories they share about you. —Shannon Adler
- Legacy is not leaving something for people. It's leaving something in people. —Peter Strople

The greatest legacy one can pass on to one's children and grandchildren is not money or other material things accumulated in one's life, but rather a legacy of character and faith. —Billy Graham

Psalm 112 - is an alphabetic acrostic poem. After the intro note of praise, each line begins with a letter from the Hebrew alphabet.

A)Psalm 112 gives us a wonderful picture of the person who leaves a lasting legacy in the lives of others

1 Praise the Lord!

Blessed is the man who fears the Lord,
Who delights greatly in His commandments.

2 His descendants will be mighty on earth;
The generation of the upright will be blessed.

3 Wealth and riches will be in his house,
And his righteousness endures forever.

4 Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness;
He is gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

5 A good man deals graciously and lends;

He will guide his affairs with discretion.

6 Surely he will never be shaken;

The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance.

7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings;

His heart is steadfast, trusting in the Lord.

8 His heart is established; He will not be afraid,

Until he sees his desire upon his enemies.

9 He has dispersed abroad,

He has given to the poor;

His righteousness endures forever;

His horn will be exalted with honor.

10 The wicked will see it and be grieved;

He will gnash his teeth and melt away;

The desire of the wicked shall perish.

The psalm begins with a beatitude. A beatitude is a blessing that is also usually a promise.

A)It is a promise of blessing to a person who lives in a certain way.

B)Most of us are familiar with the beatitudes with which Jesus began the Sermon on the Mount:

Bb) Blessed are the Promise

1)3 Examples: The meek they will inherit the earth; Those who hunger and thirst for righteousness will be filled; and The pure in heart will see God

C)Similarly Psalm 112:1 says, Blessed is the man/woman who fears the Lord, who finds great delight in his commands.

1)The rest of the Psalm lays out the specific blessings of the person who does that

D)The Godly man/woman's life is marked by 3 things:

- #1 He fears God
- #2 He delights in God's word
- #3 He seeks to obey God's word

#1 He fears God

A)Psalm 112 picks up where Psalm 111 left off.

B)Psalm 111 ended with that classic description of true, godly wisdom found several places in the wisdom literature:

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom;
all who follow his precepts have good understanding.
To him belongs eternal praise (v. 10).

To fear the Lord speaks of an Awe of a Reverence for and deep respect

A) Think of God – He is awesome in his power and majesty

B) He is Holy – He is a consuming fire

1) But his heart is not to burn me up – but to burn in me – to brighten me up

C) Although – He is Holy Awesome – Majestic – he always presents this invitation to Know Him

1) To draw near to him –

The fear of the LORD is the beginning of wisdom, and the knowledge of the Holy One is insight. Proverbs 9:10

A) Often when the Bible talks about **Knowing God** it uses a word that speaks of knowing him in a intimate way!

B) I know my wife – know her likes and dislikes – fears – concerns –

1) Know what makes her happy/ what makes her sad

C) The fear of the Lord is born out of an understanding of what God did to make himself Known to us – **JESUS RESCUE**

1) Living our lives accordingly

D) Define fearing the Lord this way – it is someone who takes their relationship with God SERIOUSLY

1) Not a casual lackadaisical approach.

E) Living for an Audience of one

Because that person fears the Lord

#2. He delights in God's Word. = Takes pleasure in

Your words were found, and I ate them, and Your word was to me the joy and rejoicing of my heart; Jeremiah 15:16

A) Fathers day – my wife and kids gave me cards

B) and sent me messages expressing their love for me – I delighted in that

C) Having them express their love – gave me pleasure

The Bible is God's love letter to us – expresses his heart – his desires

A) The person who is taking their relationship with God seriously is going to want to devour his word

B) DELIGHT in knowing His heartbeat –

C) I want to know Him more and I want to know what he has for me

D) Which leads to the 3rd Characteristic of the godly man or woman

#3 They want to obey God's word

A) Wisdom is the application of knowledge

B) A Doer not just a hearer – Why ?

1) Father knows best – I want his best

2) I want to please him

C) So everything in my life gets put through this filter – what does God's word say about that?

D) So the godly man/woman – is marked by being a person that is walking in the fear of the Lord

1) Takes pleasure in his word – desires to obey his word

E) Now the rest of the Psalm describes the benefits of living that kind of life

We might call the marks of a great legacy

#1 Solid Kids (v. 2). His descendants will be mighty on earth; The generation of the upright will be blessed

A) Pause here and say – this is not guaranteed formula –

Aa) because all our kids have their own choices to make

B) Sometimes kids who grow up in homes with parents who love them and love Jesus –

1) still make decisions to not walk with the Lord.

C) So this is not a guaranteed formula- but the chances are much greater

1) For a person who Fears the Lord, Delights and obeys - Their kids will do likewise

The word Mighty” here means being of recognized stature or standing rather than being physically strong

A) Talking Character traits marked by a visible uprightness or godliness

B) will be mighty on earth -Their character has a lasting impact on others –

1) We might say their reputation precedes them.

C) One of the greatest Joys of a parent is watching your kids have a good reputation –

1) They are well liked and respected

50 years ago, Yale University conducted an extensive seven-year study on how a person's actions in life effects the lives of his or her children.

A) This study was focused around the lives of two men: Max Jukes and Jonathan Edwards.

B) both lived over two hundred years ago. They were contemporaries:

Max Jukes was an Atheist and did not expose his children to church, even when they asked to go. **He believed in the abolition of laws and rules. Mr. Jukes formed an organization called the**

Freedom Movement that preached free sex, no laws, no formal education and no responsibilities. Jonathan Edwards was a Preacher – *Sinners in the hands of an angry God*” He was a Godly man - known by all as a "disciplinarian".

Not because he disciplined his children harshly, but because he was a self-disciplined man.

But One thing Jonathan Edwards insisted upon was that his Children went to Church.

Both of these men were chosen for their diverse beliefs, but also because they both fathered 13 children. Here are the legacies they left behind:

Matt Jukes Family tree

1,026 descendants.

300 were sent to prison for an average of 13 years,
27 were murders

190 were public prostitutes

680 were admitted alcoholics.

His family cost the state of New York close to 1.2 Million dollars in rehabs and jail time dollars and his family does not appear to have made much contribution to society.

Jonathan Edwards family Tree

929 descendants.

430 were Ministers

314 were war veterans

86 became university professors

13 became university presidents

75 wrote wholesome books

5 were elected to the US Congress

2 were elected to the Senate

3 were Governors

1 was vice president of the United States.

As far as we know, the Edwards' descendants did not cost the state or society one cent, but rather contributed immeasurably to the life and strength of New England and of our entire nation.

D) Jonathan Edwards walked in the fear of the Lord, loved God's word and sought to obey –

1) Solid Kids and a great Legacy

E) Matt Jukes – didn't love God – didn't teach his kids about God and his legacy speaks for it self

First mark

#1 Solid kids

#2 *Riches with righteousness* (v. 3). **Wealth and riches will be in his house, And his righteousness endures forever.**

A) We do not normally think of wealth as being a promised blessing from God.

B) it is true that not all who live godly lives are prospered financially.

C) There are many righteous persons among the poor.

1) Jesus was poor – nowhere to lay his head, Apostles, Paul –

D) So we would be wrong to equate physical wealth with spiritual blessing.

1) Many Rich people who are greedy scoundrels

But when someone does seek to walk with God and honor God in their lives

A) They tend to be trusted and often advance in their professions which does result in better pay -etc

B) But here is a rule of thumb in Bible interpretation

1) Blessings in the OT – External/maternal/ and temporal

Blessings in the NT Internal / spiritual/ eternal

C) So Although this can at times include monetary blessing – it speaks more of a richness of Character

Proverbs 8:18,19 ¹⁸Riches and honor *are* with me, Enduring riches and righteousness. My fruit *is* better than gold, yes, than fine gold, And my revenue than choice silver.

Proverbs 22:4 *By* humility *and* the fear of the LORD *Are* riches **and** honor **and** life.

D) Notice the last part of V.3 Righteous is enduring – his witness has long lasting affects

#3 He/she has a good witness – V.4 Unto the upright there arises light in the darkness; *He is* gracious, and full of compassion, and righteous.

A) He is a light in the darkness and – the attributes of his reflection are grace compassion & righteousness

B) Marks of a Christlike Character – John Said of Jesus – *We beheld his glory the glory of the only begotten of the father – full of Grace and truth*

C) The Spiritual byproduct of walking in the fear of the Lord – taking our walk with Jesus seriously

1) Taking pleasure in his word – seeking to obey it

D) We start to resemble Jesus more and more

E) Acts 4 – Peter and John – they could tell they had been with Jesus

You start to act like and sound like those you are spending the most time with.

A) Many Christians – spending way too much time – News shows – political pundits

B) None of these people sound like Jesus

C) Our problem is – they are our major influence we start to view the world – thru a political lens

1) Instead of a Kingdom lens

D) Some Christians need to turn off the TV, podcast and the radios – pick up their Bibles

Jesus taught us to pray – **Your kingdom come your will be done on earth as it is in heaven.**

A) Our problem – we want a kingdom without the King

B) Our worlds problems will not be solved through Political means

C) Unfortunately – there is not a politician on the planet – who's agenda is the kingdom of Jesus

D) It will be that way – until Jesus comes back – always having to choose- lesser of two evils

E) But we need to have a Jesus kingdom mindset

1) Because we can affect Kingdom change in our own sphere of influence.

#3 He/she has a good witness

#4 He/she is generous V.5,9 ⁵A good man deals graciously (gives people the benefit of the doubt) and lends; He will guide his affairs with discretion. – (Not making a big deal of his generosity)

Idea is repeated in V.9

He has dispersed abroad, He has given to the poor; His righteousness endures forever; His horn will be exalted with honor.

A) One of the things I loved about my dad – so generous – never had much \$35k a year –

1) He was frugal but loved to give to others

B) God is a giver and he wants his people to be givers too

C) Realizes – Core Values – We have been blessed to be a blessing.

#5 He is stable V.6-8 – not moved by his emotions Surely he will never be shaken; Why?

The righteous will be in everlasting remembrance. (Remembering the faithfulness of God – Remembering God’s Word and plan

7 He will not be afraid of evil tidings; His **heart** is steadfast, because trusting in the LORD.

8 therefore His **heart** is established; He will not be afraid, Until he sees *his desire* upon his enemies.

What does that Last line mean?

A)We wrestle not with flesh and blood..... rulers of darkness

B)We know that right now there is a battle – Satan is the god of this world – he is very active

C)He knows his days are numbered – he wants to take as many down with him as possible

D)The idea behind this phrase at the end of V.8 – we are Looking forward to the day – our enemy– is put in his place

#6 He/she is a threat to the forces of evil V.10 - The wicked will see *it* and be grieved; He will gnash his teeth and melt away; The desire of the wicked shall perish.

A)The Devil gets bummed when he sees a person living for righteousness

B)Yes Target – but greater is He that is in you than he that is in the world