



grow. pray. study.

May 28, 2023, *The Legacy We Leave*

Scripture: 1 Chronicles 28:11-12a, 1 Kings 2:1-3 (NRSV), 2 Timothy 1:5, Proverbs 13:22

## Teaching God's ways from generation to generation

### MONDAY 5.29.23 Deuteronomy 6:4-7

Deuteronomy 6:5 is a very familiar verse. Jesus identified it as “the greatest commandment” (cf. [Matthew 22:36-40](#), [Mark 12:28-31](#)). But sometimes we think that if we know it as the greatest commandment, that's enough. Verse 7 showed that that **wasn't** enough for the writer(s) of Deuteronomy. “Deuteronomy is particularly concerned with the teaching of the next generation, as well as the remembering of commandments from one generation to the next.” \*

- Passing on this basic truth takes more than sporadic Sunday School lessons or sermons. We leave a legacy “by the way we live.” “This commandment is not automatically transferred from one generation to another.... The instruction from the parents to the children was to be... a continual way of life.... when they sat, as they walked after they lay down at night, and when they arose in the morning (v. 7).” \*\* How can your way of life share the commandment with future generations?
- Some early Old Testament “inheritance” texts were about the legal transfer of land. But the idea soon took on spiritual aspects, expanded by early Christians. “The image receives greater spiritual definition in NT texts that identify the inheritance of God's people as... eternal life ([Mark 10:17](#)), salvation ([Hebrews 1:14](#)), and the new heavens and the new earth ([Revelation 21:7](#)).” \*\*\* What makes it vital that your legacy to those who come after you share those eternal glories?

**Prayer:** Loving Lord, I belong to you, and you have committed yourself to me. Help me to creatively share that wonderful gift with all those I am able to influence. Amen.

\* Nathan MacDonald, study note on Deuteronomy 6:7 in *The CEB Study Bible*. Nashville: Abingdon Press, 2013, p. 273-274 OT.

\*\* John Maxwell, *The Preacher's Commentary Series, Volume 5: Deuteronomy*. Nashville: Thomas Nelson Publishers, 1987, p. 119.

\*\*\* Article “Inheritance” in Leland Ryken, James C. Wilhoit and Tremper Longman III, general editors, *Dictionary of Biblical Imagery*. Downers Grove, IL: InterVarsity Press, 1998, p. 421.

## King David's Legacy: a vision and resources for the future

### TUESDAY 5.30.23 1 Chronicles 28:1-11, 20; 29:1-5, 16

Israel's King David dreamed of building a Temple in God's honor (cf. [2 Samuel 7:1-5](#), [1 Chronicles 17:1-15](#)). When God (through the prophet Nathan) said David was not the one to build the Temple, the king turned his eyes to the future. His legacy became a builder, not a building. He trained his son Solomon in how to lead in building the dazzling temple. He didn't just talk a good game but set out to gather what Solomon would need for the project, giving a large chunk of his fortune as a legacy.

- David also let all of Israel join in giving for the Temple. [1 Chronicles 29:9](#) said the people rejoiced, not because they'd given a fixed financial amount, but because "they had presented their offerings to the Lord so willingly and wholeheartedly." Do the words "willingly and wholeheartedly" apply to you when paying for health insurance and/or medical bills? Buying gifts? Paying to fix your car, roof or plumbing? Whatever you give to advance God's kingdom?
- David spoke of God's choosing him, his family and his people, Israel. It didn't (and doesn't) mean the chosen get a free pass to heaven, or that God chose you because you are better than others. "God's choice of Abraham was not a means of excluding other people but of including them.... They were chosen to fulfill a role, not to enjoy being chosen." \* God has chosen you (cf. [Ephesians 3:2,10](#)) to fulfill the role of showing others what God is like. How can you do that?

**Prayer:** Lord God, thank you for the gift of life and all that comes with it. Grow in me a heart that fills with joy when I have the privilege of giving back some of what you've given me. Amen.

\* John Goldingay, *1 and 2 Chronicles for Everyone*. Louisville: Westminster John Knox Press, 2012, p. 70.

### Focus on "all who are yet to come"

### WEDNESDAY 5.31.23 Psalm 78:1-8, 71:14-19

It's easy to think of a legacy purely in financial terms (and that's part of the process shaped by our level of economic resources). But Pastor Hamilton reminded us that we also leave a legacy "by the faith we share." God's people have always valued teaching. In Israel, the focus of teaching was not to satisfy random human curiosity, but to pass on the knowledge of God's powerful acts to future generations. They knew that God wants us to develop our minds and others faithfully and well.

- Psalm 78 said that while learning has present benefits, it is strongly future-focused. God's followers, through the centuries, have played a major role in starting many types of schools. That's because their faith teaches them to care about future generations, not merely their own comfort and security. How important is it to you that your faith not just make your life better, but reach those who will be here after you're gone?
- Psalm 71 was not like investment ads that picture our older years as a non-stop, luxurious vacation. The psalmist's "bucket list" was a lifelong calling to share God's love and power: "Even in my old age with gray hair, don't abandon me, God! Not until I tell generations about your mighty arm, tell all who are yet to come about your strength." Whether you're 21 or 81, how are you (or how will you start) building a legacy to tell future generations about the God you love and serve?

**Prayer:** Lord God, I want to accept the challenge. I want to live a life with the big picture aim of helping present and future generations know your strength and ultimate righteousness. Please guide me. Amen.

## Jesus' unexpected deep interest in children

### THURSDAY 6.1.23 Mark 10:13-16

Jesus overriding his disciples and inviting children to come to him spoke volumes to those who were bringing their children for a blessing, a traditional Jewish act. What we have to know is that first-century culture did not value children much. “Children, along with women, old men, and slaves, were viewed as physically weak burdens on society who had little value to the wider life of the community.”

\* Jesus regularly uplifted the marginalized and corrected those who thought too highly of themselves.

- It's easy to overlook the fact that one of the greatest ways we leave a legacy is “by the love we show.” When you were a child, did your parents or other adults lovingly bring you to Jesus for his blessing and guidance for life? If you are a parent, grandparent or have another connection with one or more children, how can you bring them to Jesus so that he can bless them with God's love in addition to your love?
- Loving children takes more than cute photos and fuzzy emotions. “Children are more treasured these days, but caring for children often isn't valued. Child-care workers are frequently poorly paid and the work is often considered a low-status profession. Parents who leave the workforce to care for children... lose income but sometimes even more: a sense of identity, a relationship network, and even a feeling of worth. What if we valued caring for children the way Jesus did?” \*\*

**Prayer:** Lord God, sustain in me the childlike trust and wisdom to always value the eternal treasure you offer. And give me the adult wisdom to value all those who care for and teach the children you cherish. Amen.

\* From <https://www.christianity.com/church/church-history/timeline/1-300/jesus-loved-children-11629553.html>.

\*\* Karen Chakoian, study note on “Childcare” in *The CEB Women's Bible*. Nashville: Common English Bible, 2016, p. 1241.

## Jesus the risen Lord—for you, your children and all

### FRIDAY 6.2.23 Acts 2:29-39

This was part of a sermon Peter preached in Jerusalem just fifty days after Jesus' crucifixion. The contrast was striking. At the time of the crucifixion, Peter feared the “powers that be” so much that he denied even knowing Jesus ([Luke 22:54-62](#)). Less than two months later, in the same city, he boldly preached Jesus as the risen Lord. Jesus' resurrection made him bold to speak, not only to the present but to the future.

- Peter called hearers to “allow the death and resurrection of Jesus to become... the sign of your identity, with you and your children (verse 39) sharing in the new life... turning away from the course you were on, and embracing Jesus' way instead.... that message translates... to everyone in every society and at every moment in time. ‘The promise is for you, and for your children, and for everyone who is far away, as many as the Lord our God will call.’ That means all the rest of us.” \* Who helped you live into God's promise? How can you pass that on to the future?
- Peter's message was deeply grounded in the Hebrew Scriptures (Old Testament). “[Verse 19] probably echoes [Isaiah 57:19](#). ‘For all whom the Lord our God will call’ completes Peter's quotation. In [Acts 2:16–36](#), Peter was explaining an earlier line of Joel 2:32, quoted in Ac 2:21, arguing that Jesus was the Lord's name on which they were to call.” \*\* Joel's “all people” took in all ages. How did that underscore Peter's focus on taking the good news to the future?

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, remind me that to call you “Lord” means I no longer must figure out life on my own. You are my Master, guide and friend. I gladly make myself your servant to share the beauty, peace and purpose of your kingdom. Amen.

\* Wright, N.T., *Acts for Everyone, Part One: Chapters 1-12* (The New Testament for Everyone) (p. 42-43). Westminster John Knox Press. Kindle Edition.

\*\* NIV, *Cultural Backgrounds Study Bible* (p. 9559). Zondervan. Kindle Edition.

## **Your salvation: for “future generations” as well as you**

### **SATURDAY 6.3.23 Ephesians 2:4-10**

“God is rich in mercy.” “You are saved by God’s grace.” That was the beating heart of our faith, said the letter to the Ephesians. God saved us FROM a broken, self-seeking way of life. But that wasn’t the end of the story; it was just the beginning. What Jesus called “the kingdom of God” aims to restore not just individuals, but this whole broken world to God-given wholeness. God didn’t save any of us just to do something nice for us. If in fact “God did this to show future generations the greatness of his grace,” then a part of our response to God’s grace must surely be to thoughtfully seek to leave a legacy that helps to show future generations how good God has been to us. As Pastor Hamilton put it, one key way we leave a legacy is “by the work we do.”

- John Wesley, Methodism’s founder, applied Ephesians 2 to everyday life in his “second general rule”: “By doing good; by being in every kind merciful after their power; as they have the opportunity, doing good of every possible sort, and, as far as possible, to all men.” Are there any “sorts” of goodness you didn’t use to practice, but do now as a Christ follower? As you reflect on the legacy you will leave, why not let Wesley’s phrase “doing good of every possible sort” spark your creativity? What new sorts of goodness, not just for the present but for future generations, might God be nudging you to consider making a part of your life and planning? (There are many specific ways to build a legacy of faith. For a rotating set of ideas on how to do that at Resurrection, [click here](#) and check back regularly.)

**Prayer:** Lord Jesus, thank you for all that you have saved me from. Guide me day by day into a way of living that honors and carries out the purposes you saved me for, now and in the future. Amen.

### **Prayer Requests – [cor.org/prayer](http://cor.org/prayer) Prayers of peace and comfort for:**

To **Ellen Cantrell Richards** and family following the death of **Dale Cantrell** (Father), who died 5/8/2023.

To **Joan Dougherty** and family following the death of **Leck Dougherty** (father-in-law), who died.

To **Scharme Gant** and family following the death of **Sam Tabor** (Father), who died 5/17/2023.

To **Katherine Tabor** and family following the death of **Sam Tabor** (Husband), who died 5/17/2023.

To **Chris Kohatsu** and family following the death of **Richard Storey** (Grandfather), who died 5/16/2023.

To **Jane Miller** and family following the death of **Cecil Miller** (Husband), who died 5/9/2023.

To **Bill Shelby** and family following the death of **Michele Shelby** (Wife), who died 5/12/2023.

To **Sheldon Vogt** and family following the death of **Jerry** (Father), who died 5/19/2023

To **Barbara Warriner** and family following the death of **Gary** (Brother), who died 5/16/2023.