

BUILDING A LEGACY WEEK 2
CREATING A LEGACY OF GENEROSITY AND COMPASSION
12/5/2021

I. Introduction: Being a “legacy builder” is about taking the time now to think about how we want to be remembered in the future, especially when we stand before Jesus.

A. Reasons why we want to think about the future

1. It’s coming faster than we _____.

2. By thinking about how we want to be remembered, we can walk in more _____ now. “Teach us to number our days that we may gain a heart of wisdom.” (Psalms 90:12 NIV)

B. One of the main things thinking this way will help us realize is that in the end we won’t be as concerned about our trophies, titles, or treasures; what will matter most will be the _____ we left behind.

C. What we want to see today is the importance of leaving a legacy of generosity and _____.

“Then the King will say to those on his right, ‘Come, you who are blessed by my Father; take your inheritance, the kingdom prepared for you since the creation of the world. For I was hungry and you gave me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you invited me in. I needed clothes and you clothed me, I was in prison and you came to visit me. Then the righteous will answer him, ‘Lord, when did we see you hungry and feed you, or thirsty and give you something to drink? When did we see you a stranger and invite you in, or needing clothes and clothe you? When did we see you sick or in prison and go to visit you? The King will reply, ‘Truly I tell you, whatever you did for one of the least of these brothers and sisters of mine, you did for me.’” (Matthew 25:34-40 NIV)

II. Reasons why a legacy of generosity and compassion is so important

A. Jesus has a special place in His heart for the poor and disenfranchised. He feels their suffering as _____ and receives our compassion as worship.

B. Our concern for the poor opens our lives to His presence and _____ in a huge way. When we find God’s heart for the poor, we find the way to open the Heavens.

“Cornelius stared at him in fear, ‘What is it, Lord?’ he asked. The angel answered, ‘Your prayers and gifts to the poor have come up as a memorial offering before God.’” (Acts 10:4 NIV)

Blessings God promises those who share His heart for the poor from Isaiah 58:8-12

1. Your light will break forth like the dawn (Long nights will be over).

2. Your healing will appear quickly.

3. Righteousness (favor) will go before you; glory will be behind you (God will have your back).

4. You will cry for help, and He will say, “Here I am.”

5. Your light (clarity) will rise like the noon day.

6. God will guide you always.

7. He will satisfy your needs even in a time of famine.

8. He will strengthen your frame.

9. Your life will be like a flourishing garden.

10. You will rebuild what was torn down; God will restore what the enemy has stolen.
11. You will find your joy in the Lord.
12. You will feast on your inheritance. You will see God's promises come to pass.

III. Keys to leaving a legacy of generosity and compassion

A. Make generosity and compassion your _____ priority, not just something you plan to do with leftovers. God wants us to offer Him the first fruits of our time, treasure, and talents.

"But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well."
(Matthew 6:33 NIV)

"You will find you can have everything you want in life if you are willing to help enough other people find what they want in life." -Zig Ziglar

B. Let God show you the poor He is putting before you. Look for the _____. He wants you to bless. The poor are not just the physically poor; they include the spiritually and emotionally poor as well.

"The worst form of poverty is loneliness." -Mother Teresa

C. Find your legacy lane. Discover the needs that God _____ to respond to. Your purpose is where your greatest joy in serving, meets one of the world's greatest needs of lack and suffering.

Check off what you think are needs you are most made and motivated to meet.

1. Physical needs (food, shelter, clothing)
2. Safety needs (protection/defense/advocacy)
3. Compassion and care needs for help and assistance
4. Esteem needs-the need to feel special, uplifted, encouraged, welcomed and important
5. Aesthetic needs-to have clean, pleasant environments and beauty
6. Cognitive needs-education, understanding, and training
7. Encountering God needs-worship, prayer, healing ministry
8. Messaging needs-evangelism, broadcasting, media
9. Missionary needs-to be sent out to help those who are beyond present reach
10. Medical needs
11. Generosity needs-to meet financial needs

D. Find and build up your legacy _____. You multiply your generosity and compassion potential when you serve as part of a _____.

"All of you TOGETHER are Christ's body, and each of you is a part of it." (1 Cor. 12:27 NLT)

E. Learn how to give by _____. Don't just give out of your pocket. Ask God what He wants you to give and He will allow you to give out of His pocket. He promises to provide seed for Sowers.

- *"In the midst of a very severe trial, their overflowing joy and their extreme poverty welled up in rich generosity. For I testify that they gave as much as they were able, and even beyond their ability."*
(2 Corinthians 8:2-3 NIV)
- *"You will be enriched in every way so that you can be generous on every occasion, and through us your generosity will result in thanksgiving to God."* (2 Corinthians 9:11 NIV)

(Answers A. think, wisdom B. testimonies C. compassion II. A. His suffering B. blessing III. A. first B. one C. wired you D. team, church body E. faith)