

South Bay Community Church
Sermon Reflection
Generations Sermon Series: Building a Godly Legacy for the Next Generation
20 June 2021
Pastor Tammy Long
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Check in, Opening Prayer

Sermon Text: 1 Chronicles 22:7-13

Sermon Preamble

All of us, including fathers who we are celebrating today, leave a legacy that might be tangible or intangible and reverberates from generation to generation. A legacy is about living the way you want to be remembered that will yield fruit long after you are gone. We can learn from David about leaving a godly legacy about ourselves that is deep, wide, and eternal.

David's one-on-one discourse with his son, Solomon

David's life had both high points and low points. High points include killing Goliath, becoming King of Israel, and successes in military victories. Low points include committing adultery with Bathsheba and then arranging for her husband to be murdered, and failures as a father like when he failed to address family incest, and he was hunted by a son who wanted to overthrow his throne. David was a man after God's own heart, and he was certainly not perfect. Despite his failings, David knew God to be a God of forgiveness, grace, and mercy when he drew near to God. David is having a legacy conversation with his son, Solomon, about things he wants to make sure Solomon knows before David leaves this world. Whether we are talking about our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, cousins, god-children, neighbors, or friends, the next generation is watching and learning from us.

Let's explore the four legacy stones that David exemplifies for us.

First stone: David lived a God-given mission

Two things stand out in looking at David's life. First, David loved God with all his heart. The 73 Psalms written by David point to his hungering after God, his praise and worship of God, and his brokenness when he sinned against God. All point to David's deep commitment and love for God.

Second, David was about worshipping and making God's name great. "The house to be built for the Lord should be of great magnificence and fame and splendor in the sight of all the nations (1 Chronicles 22:5). David wanted the surrounding nations to know how powerful and mighty God is; this is core to David's mission and purpose. Similarly, David wrote "I will exalt you, my God the King; I will praise your name for ever and ever....Great is the Lord and most worthy of praise; his greatness no one can fathom" (Psalm 145). The temple is to be a physical manifestation of that sentiment. This is the great God David served, and he wanted God known across the land.

As a man with a God-given mission, David lived into his mission until his death. His example as a man on a mission for God lives on. His mission in life became part of his legacy. Each of us has a mission; it won't be the same as David. Our mission is whatever God has placed in our heart that we are passionate about and reflects God's love and care. As our Pastor Emeritus Stanley Long would often state, "If you are breathing, God is not through with you, and you have a God-given mission." How you live into your mission is part of your legacy.

Second stone: David embraced his God-given story

“David said to Solomon: ‘My son, I had it in my heart to build a house for the Name of the Lord my God. But this word of the Lord came to me: You have shed much blood and have fought many wars. You are not to build a house for my Name, because you have shed much blood on the earth in my sight’ (1 Chronicles 22:7-8). Like David, each of us has a story of our life that has made us who we are and it is still unfolding with beginnings, chapters, and endings. There are parts left untold and questions left unanswered because they are not germane to the bigger story. Everything we want to do, we won’t get to do. Even things we envision will bring glory to God may not be part of our story. God declares to David regarding Solomon, “He is the one who will build a house for me, and I will establish his throne forever” (1 Chronicles 17:12).

David accepted and embraced his story. God told David that building the temple is not for David to complete despite his heart for building the temple. Building the temple is not part of David’s story. David is not building the temple because of the blood shed. David is not being punished. David lived into his mission and purpose just as God intended. There is a bigger story that God is embracing that we may not always understand. God had outlined in the Mosaic Law that His temple was to be associated with rest for His people and the absence of war. The temple is a manifestation of God’s presence, peace and faithfulness to His promises. David’s mission and story was to help establish that peace. David’s story was critical; it got the children of Israel to where they needed to be and prepared the way for what was to come! David accepted that the actual building of the temple was to be part of another story (Solomon’s story). David’s story was his experiences, wisdom, lessons learned, and intimacy with God. This was a God-given story that is part of David’s legacy that he embraced.

Like David, we have God given stories that are part of our legacy. Some parts may be painful and hard to look at. If we look deep enough, even at the painful parts, God is always there even though we may not see God at first. God has made some kind of way, unfolded some new direction, or revealed something about his bigger story. God teaches us some kind of lesson for our good, comforts us in the darkest of nights, helps us escape what might have been worse, and reveals His faithfulness over and over.

We have a God-given story. Record them in your heart because you never know when God may invite you to share your story with the next generation. Your story is part of your legacy.

Third stone: David affirmed a God-given future and hope in the next generation.

“But you will have a son who will be a man of peace and rest, and I will give him rest from all his enemies on every side. His name will be Solomon, and I will grant Israel peace and quiet during his reign. He is the one who will build a house for my Name. He will be my son, and I will be his father. And I will establish the throne of his kingdom over Israel forever” (1 Chronicles 22:9-10). The mission of building the temple is for Solomon, who will be a man of peace. How would you respond if you were Solomon? Perhaps Solomon had anxiety thinking about the weight of all his father was saying. Perhaps Solomon had insecurity thinking about coming behind King David. Perhaps Solomon was fearful as he wondered if he could really do all the building of the temple.

Despite all those emotions, Solomon felt affirmed and supported by his father. Solomon recognizes that his father had a word from God about him. His father sees something in Solomon. His father believes in Solomon. When a younger person hears words of affirmation from an older person that they respect and is significant in their life, that affirmation is a powerful gift. The living

legacy is us coming alongside the next generation to encourage them, to affirm their passions and gifts, to reflect what we see God doing in their lives, and sometimes have a scripture or prophetic word God has placed in our spirit to share. We can speak into their lives, support what we see, and offer a bridge for their journey in multiple ways including wisdom, experience, network connections, finances, and emotional support. We can be a living legacy for their future and hope.

David did not only cast a vision for Solomon, but David gave Solomon practical and tangible support as well. 1 Chronicles 22:14 and the following scriptures show that David shared temple plans, shared material resources, and coordinated human resource identification of skilled workers.

Fourth stone: David bestowed a God-focused blessing

“Now, my son, the Lord be with you and may you have success and build the house of the Lord your God, as he said you would. May the Lord give you discretion and understanding when he puts you in command over Israel, so that you may keep the law of the Lord your God. Then you will have success if you are careful to observe the decrees and laws that the Lord gave Moses for Israel. Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or discouraged” (1 Chronicles 22:11-13). David’s God-focused blessing captures everything David wants Solomon to know as he assumes the next part of his journey. David declares God’s presence and assures God’s help. This is also a reminder that Solomon will need the Lord for the work. David asks for discretion and understanding with the wisdom to keep the laws of the Lord. David is clear that success will come only IF Solomon is walking with the Lord; a word of encouragement and also admonition.

Finally, David tells Solomon to be strong and courageous, not afraid or discouraged. These are the exact words Moses said to his successor, Joshua. “Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the Lord your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you” (Deuteronomy 31:6).

The heart of David’s legacy and what he wants Solomon to understand is: everything comes down to a relationship with God; David’s greatest legacy was spiritual. It is the key stone by which all the other legacy stones have meaning and make sense.

Closing conclusion

We have shared four legacy stones. We can’t carry all of them at once, but perhaps one stone resonated more with you than another. These things take time and prayer. On July 24, we are offering a class on “The Wisdom of Years: Creating, Celebrating and Sharing Your Legacy.

God is with our children and the next generation. He loves them even more than we do - so much that he desires to be their father directly. He uses godly fathers and mothers, but God is personal. God declares about Solomon and us, “He will be my son, and I will be his father” (1 Chronicles 22:10). God says the same thing to us and our children, “He will be my son; she will be my daughter, and I will be their father.” We are the sons and daughters of God. For those who may be struggling with fathers who have not fathered well, there is a perfect father who will father us perfectly. For those who have wonderful fathers, there is a perfect father who loves you even more. It’s not too late for fathers who are less than they wanted. There is a perfect father, God, who will walk beside you and guide you as you build your legacy for the next generation.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

David's one-on-one discourse with his son, Solomon

- We pay attention to wills, estates, accumulated wealth that are important in passing on to the next generations. How do we pass on to the next generations a God-blessed spiritual legacy to the next generations?
- Can we pass on to the next generations a God-blessed spiritual legacy despite mistakes we have made in our lives? Why?

First stone: David lived a God-given mission

- How does our mission in life given by God relate to the legacy we pass on to the next generations?
- How can we live into the mission God has given us for our lives?
- What mission has God put in your heart that you are passionate about and that reflects God's love and care?
- Does the mission have to be big or grandiose?
- Does this mission continue as long as we are breathing in this life?

Second stone: David embraced his God-given story

- What is your God-given story?
- Is it fine that some things are not part of our story?
- Is it fine that some things we want to do are not part of our story? Consider that David in his heart wanted to build a temple for his magnificent God, but God declared building the temple is not part of David's story.
- What was the response of David when God declared that the temple building prominent in his heart will not be part of David's story?
- When was the last time you looked at your life story and what have you learned?
- If we look deep enough at our life story, how has God revealed something about God's bigger story and taught me a lesson for my good?
- What experiences have you had that has given you wisdom and understanding?
- How have you seen God at work in your story?
- In your reflections on your story, what do you need to share with the next generation, so that your story is part of your legacy?

Third stone: David affirmed a God-given future and hope in the next generation

- Consider those of the next generation in your sphere of influence. How do you see God at work in their lives?
- What nuggets might you share to encourage, inspire, and affirm as their God-given future and hope?

Fourth stone: David bestowed a God-focused blessing

- In consideration of your relationship with God, how are you building your spiritual legacy?
- What is the importance of God-focused blessings and spiritual conversations with the next generation, based on our own relationship with God?

Closing conclusion

- Is God calling each of us to share our God-focused blessing with the next generations? Why?