GENEROSITY IS LOVE IN ACTION

Leaving a Lasting Legacy – Message 1

"We will not hide these truths from our children but will teach the next generation..." Psalm 78:4 (NLT)

"Three things continue forever: faith, hope, and love. And the greatest of these is love." 1 Cor. 13:13 (NCV)

WHY MUST WE MODEL & TEACH GENEROSITY?

1. GENEROSITY _____

"We all live off God's generous bounty, gift after gift after gift." John 1:16 (Mes)

"Everything we have has come from you Lord, and we can only give you what is yours already!" 1 Chron. 29:14 (LB)

> "You will be glorifying God through your generous gifts." 2 Cor. 9:13 (NLT)

2. GENEROSITY _____

"You cannot serve both God and money." Matt. 6:24 (NIV)

3. GENEROSITY _____

"Your heart will be wherever your treasure is." Matt. 6:21 (NCV)

4. GENEROSITY

"Your generosity... not only provides for the needs of God's people, but also produces prayers of thanksgiving to God."

2 Cor. 9:11-12

"If you see some brother or sister in need and have the means to do something about it but turn a cold shoulder and do nothing, what happens to God's love? It disappears. And you made it disappear." 1 John 3:17 (Mes)

5. GENEROSITY _____

"If you give, you will receive. Your gift will return to you in full measure... and running over. Whatever measure you use in giving will be used to measure what is given back to you." Lk. 6:38 (NLT)

"Give generously ... and do so without a grudging heart; then because of this God will bless you in all your work and in everything you put your hand to."

Deut. 15:10 (NIV)

6. GENEROSITY

"Jesus said, "There is more happiness in giving than in receiving."" Acts 20:35 (GN)

7. GENEROSITY _____

"Your giving proves the reality of your faith..." 2 Cor. 9:13 (Ph)

"Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows generously will also reap generously. Each one should give what he has decided in his heart to give, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to make all grace abound to you, so that in all things at all times, having all that you need, you will abound in every good work."

2 Cor. 9:6-8 (NIV)

8. GENEROSITY

"Store up for yourselves treasures in heaven...""

Matt. 6:20 (NIV)

"Tell those who are rich not to be proud and not to trust in their money, which will soon be gone... Tell them to use their money to do good. They should give happily to those in need, always ready to share with others whatever God has given them. By doing this they will be storing up real treasure for themselves in heaven – it is the only safe investment for eternity!"

1 Tim. 6:17-19 (LB)

"If you are untrustworthy about worldly wealth, who will trust you with the true riches of heaven?" Luke 16:11 (NLT)

LEAVING A LEGACY OF FAITH

Leaving a Lasting Legacy – Message 2

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"Without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to Him must believe He exists and that He rewards those who earnestly seek Him."

Heb. 11:6 (NIV)

WHAT WE MUST MODEL AND TEACH ABOUT FAITH FAITH IS...

1. ______WHEN I DON'T SEE IT.

"Faith is being sure of what we hope for and certain of what we do not see." Heb. 11:1 (NIV)

2. WHEN I DON'T UNDERSTAND

"It was by faith that Noah built an ark to save his family from the flood. He obeyed God, who warned him about something that had never happened before."

Heb. 11:7 (NLT)

"It was faith that made Abraham obey when God called him and go out to a country God had promised to him. He left his own country without knowing where he was going."

Heb. 11:8 (GN)

3. WHEN I DON'T FEEL LIKE IT.

"It was by faith that Moses left Egypt and was not afraid of the King's anger. He held to his purpose like a man who could see the invisible."

Heb. 11:27 (JB)

"What is faith? It is the confident assurance that what we hope for is going to happen. It is the evidence of things we cannot yet see."

Heb. 11:1 (NLT)

4. IN ORDER TO EXPERIENCE IT.

"It was by faith that Joseph, when he was about to die, confidently spoke of God's bringing the people of Israel out of Egypt. He was so sure of it that he commanded them to carry his bones with them when they left!" Heb. 11:22 (NLT)

"By faith, we see the world called into existence by God's word, what we see created by what we don't see." Heb. 11:3 (Mes)

> "For He spoke, and it came to be." Psalm 33:9 (NIV)

(God said) "I have made you a father of many nations... God who gives life to the dead and calls things that are not as though they were." Rom. 4:17 (NIV)

> "God speaks of future events with as much certainty as though they were already past." Rom. 4:17 (LB)

"For it is by our faith that we are put right with God; it is by our confession that we are saved." Rom. 10:10 (TEV)

5. _____ WHEN I DON'T HAVE IT.

"It was faith that made Abel's offering to God a better sacrifice than Cain's. Through his faith...God approved of his giving." Heb. 11:4 (GN)

> "Because of their great joy ... They gave even more than they could afford." 2 Cor. 8:2-3 (ICB)

"Honor the Lord by giving Him the first part of all your income, and He will fill your barns and overflow your barrels with the finest wines."

Prov. 3:9 (LB)

"On every Lord's Day each of you should put aside something from what you have earned during the week, and use it for your offering. The amount depends on how much the Lord has helped you earn."

1 Cor. 16:2 (LB)

6. **BEFORE I RECEIVE IT.**

"By faith the walls of Jericho fell, after the people had marched around them for seven days." Heb. 11:30 (NIV)

"When you pray and ask for something, believe that you have received it and you will be given what you ask for." Mark 11:24 (GN)

> "Jesus said, 'Because of your faith, it will happen."" Matt. 9:29 (NLT)

7. ______ IF I DON'T GET IT.

"They were all commended for their faith yet none of them received what had been promised. God had planned something better..." Heb. 11:39-40 (NIV)

> "Faith comes from hearing the Word of God..." Rom. 10:17 (NIV)

LEAVING A LEGACY OF HOPE

Leaving a Lasting Legacy – Message 3

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"God commanded our ancestors to teach his word to their children, so the next generation might know them... that they in turn might teach their children. So each generation can set its hope anew on God..."

Psalm 78:5-7 (NLT)

8 REASONS FOR HOPE Because I trust Jesus, there is...

1. NO CONDEMNATION: _____

"There is now no condemnation for those who belong to Christ Jesus." Rom. 8:1 (NIV)

2. NO DOMINATION: ______

"Through Christ Jesus, the law of the Spirit of Life has set me free from the law of sin and death." Rom. 8:2 (NIV)

"The Law of Moses could not save us, because of our sinful nature. But God put into effect a different plan to save us. God destroyed sin's control over us by giving His Son as a sacrifice for our sins." **Rom. 8:3 (NLT)**

"Those dominated by their sinful nature think about sinful things, but those controlled by the Holy Spirit think about things that please God... If the Holy Spirit controls your mind, there is life and peace." **Rom. 8:5-6 (NLT)**

3. NO TERMINATION: _____

"The Spirit of God, who raised Jesus from the dead, lives in you. So just as He raised Christ from the dead, He will give life to your mortal body by this same Spirit!"

Rom. 8:11 (NLT)

"For in this hope we were saved." Rom. 8:24 (NIV)

4. NO LIMITATION:

"God's Spirit speaks to us deep in our hearts and tells us that we are God's children. And since we are His children, we will share His treasures—for everything God gives to His Son, Christ, is ours, too!" **Rom. 8:16-17a (NLT)**

"But if we are to share His glory, we must also share His suffering. Yet what we suffer now is nothing compared to the glory He will give us later."

Rom. 8:17b- 18 (NLT)

5. NO MISCALCULATION:

"We know that in ALL things God works for the good of those who love Him, who've been called according to His purpose."

Rom. 8:28 (NIV)

"For God knew His people in advance, and He chose them to become like His Son, so that His Son would be the firstborn with many brothers and sisters."

Rom. 8:29 (NLT)

"Meanwhile, the moment we get tired in the waiting, God's Spirit is right alongside helping us along. If we don't know how or what to pray, it doesn't matter. He does our praying in and for us, making prayer out of our wordless sighs and groans."

Rom. 8:26 (Mes)

6. NO INTIMIDATION:

"What can we say about such wonderful things as these? If God is for us, who can ever be against us?" Rom. 8:31 (NLT)

"Who can accuse the people God has chosen? No one, because God is the One who makes them right." Rom. 8:33 (NCV)

> "None of this fazes us because Jesus loves us." Rom. 8:37 (Mes)

7. NO DEPRIVATION: _____

"Since God did not spare even His own Son but gave him up for us all, won't God, who gave us Christ, also give us everything else?"

Rom. 8:32 (NLT)

8. NO SEPARATION:

"I am convinced that nothing can ever separate us from his love. Death can't, and life can't. The angels can't, and the demons can't. Our fears for today, our worries about tomorrow, and even the powers of hell can't keep God's love away. Whether we are high above the sky or in the deepest ocean, nothing in all creation will ever be able to separate us from the love of God that is revealed in Christ Jesus our Lord." **Rom. 8:38-39 (NLT)**

"...Live and act in a way worthy of those who have been chosen for such wonderful blessings as these." **Eph. 4:1 (LB)**

LIVING BY YOUR CONVICTIONS

Leaving a Lasting Legacy – Message 4

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CONVICTIONS THAT SHAPE MY DECISIONS

1. CONVICTION:_____

"For everything comes from God alone, everything lives by His power, and everything is intended for His glory." Rom. 11:36 (LB)

IMPLICATION:

"Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind. This is the first and greatest commandment."

Matt. 22:37-38 (NIV)

OPPOSITION:

Jesus: "People will do to you exactly what they did to Me. They will do it because you belong to Me, and they don't know the one who sent Me."

John 15:21 (CEV)

2. CONVICTION: _____

Jesus: "I will build My church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it." Matt 16:18 (NLT)

IMPLICATION:

"Brothers and sisters, I appeal to you by the authority of the Lord Jesus Christ to stop arguing among yourselves. Let there be real harmony so there won't be divisions in the church. I plead with you to be of one mind, united in thought and purpose."

1 Cor. 1:10 (NLT)

OPPOSITION:

"Look out for those who cause people to be against each other and who upset other people's faith. They are against the true teaching you learned, so stay away from them."

Rom. 16:17 (NCV)

3. CONVICTION:_____

"The second most important commandment is: Love your neighbor as you love yourself. There is no other commandment more important than these two."

Mark 12:31 (TEV)

"Love your enemies and do good to them; lend and expect nothing back. You will then have a great reward, and you will be children of the Most High God. For He is good to the ungrateful and the wicked." Luke 6:35 (TEV)

IMPLICATION:

"Show respect for everyone. Love your Christian brothers and sisters. Fear God. Show respect for the king." 1 Peter 2:17 (NLT)

OPPOSITION:

"When the world hates you, remember it hated Me before it hated you. The world would love you if you belonged to it, but you don't."

John 15:18-19 (NLT)

4. CONVICTION: _____

Jesus: "All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, and teaching them to obey everything I have commanded you. And surely I am with you always, to the very end of the age."

Matt. 28:18-20 (NIV)

IMPLICATION:

"Christ's love compels us, because we are convinced that one died for all ... And He died for all, that those who live should no longer live for themselves but for Him who died for them and was raised again. So from now on we regard no one from a worldly point of view."

2 Cor. 5:14-16 (NIV)

OPPOSITION:

"Blessed are you when people insult you, persecute you and falsely say all kinds of evil against you because of Me. Rejoice and be glad, because great is your reward in heaven, for in the same way they persecuted the prophets who were before you."

Matt. 5:11-12 (NIV)

5. CONVICTION: _____

"Jesus looked at them and said, 'With man this is impossible, but with God all things are possible." Matt. 19:26 (NIV)

IMPLICATION:

(Jesus) "According to your faith will it be done to you."

Matt. 9:29 (NIV)

OPPOSITION:

"Because of their unbelief, He couldn't do any mighty miracles among them..." Mark 6:5 (NLT)

6. CONVICTION:

"The Good News about God's kingdom will be preached in all the world, to every nation. Then the end will come." Matt. 24:14 (NCV)