

Legacy
Proverbs 11:7-11
April 10, 2016

Introduction

Legacy. What is this word mean? Many people confuse this word with reputation. Reputation is how people see you right now. Legacy is what you leave with your children when you die. Legacy lasts for generations. It impacts families, communities, and churches. What you do now will impact the future. Solomon tells us what will happen in the future is what we do now. He tells us of possible legacies between those who are wicked and those who are righteous.

I. Legacy

Proverbs 11:7-11 *When a wicked man dies, his hope perishes; all he expected from his power comes to nothing. 8 The righteous man is rescued from trouble, and it comes on the wicked instead. 9 With his mouth the godless destroys his neighbor, but through knowledge the righteous escape. 10 When the righteous prosper, the city rejoices; when the wicked perish, there are shouts of joy. 11 Through the blessing of the upright a city is exalted, but by the mouth of the wicked it is destroyed.*

- Different legacies (7-8)

- Wicked

- His expectations and hope
 - Dreams, goals, his future
 - Family continuing the line and his name
 - All come to nothing
 - Forgotten and ruined
 - Ecclesiastes—everything done apart from God is meaningless
 - God will make sure that the legacy of the wicked will not last beyond death
 - Even worse for eternity

Proverbs 11:23 *The desire of the righteous ends only in good, but the hope of the wicked only in wrath.*

Proverbs 24:19-20 *Do not fret because of evil men or be envious of the wicked, 20 for the evil man has no future hope, and the lamp of the wicked will be snuffed out.*

- Righteous

- Delivered from trouble
 - God will make sure that the righteous will have a legacy that endures
 - Rich spiritual legacy, the children will reap for generations to come

- Implication

- Solomon makes a general observation about life and absolute observation about spiritual life
 - Based on **Deuteronomy 28**
 - Obey God = blessings
 - Disobey God = curse

- Legacy in communication (9)

- Godless

- Speak of things that are against God or oppose God

- Coarse language, cursing, slander, gossip, manipulation, etc
- Pounding of evil attitude through speech on another person
- Expanding death and destruction
- Example: Racism
- Righteous
 - The only thing that can protect children in the future is knowledge

Proverbs 1:7 *The fear of the LORD is the beginning of knowledge, but fools despise wisdom and discipline.*

- The knowledge of God and how to live in fear of Him
- We do this by seasoning our communication with the gospel truth and grace

Colossians 4:6 *Let your conversation be always full of grace, seasoned with salt, so that you may know how to answer everyone.*

Ephesians 4:29 *Do not let any unwholesome talk come out of your mouths, but only what is helpful for building others up according to their needs, that it may benefit those who listen.*

- Implication
 - There are long lasting consequences from our speech
 - Our conversation can break people—doing much damage
 - Or it can bring blessings on others, building them up
- Legacy in community (**10-11**)

Proverbs 14:34 *Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people.*

Proverbs 28:12 *When the righteous rejoice, there is great glory; but when the wicked arise, men hide themselves.*

Proverbs 29:2 *When the righteous thrive, the people rejoice; when the wicked rule, the people groan.*

- Godly people bring blessings to the community
 - People will appreciate it
- Sinful people bring trouble to the community
 - Can rip relationships apart
 - When they leave or die, the community is relieved...even joyful

II. Gleanings from Esther

- **Esther 3:1-8**
 - Haman hated Mordecai for his “disrespect” and by association, hated all the Jews
 - He planned to kill all the Jews
 - He told the king lies about the Jews
 - As a result, the Jews are upset about what would happen to them
 - Haman is proud of his promotion
- **Esther 5:9-14**
 - He thought he would bring honor, glory, and riches for himself and his family
 - He is so sure of himself that he built a gallows for Mordecai

- **Esther 6:1-12**
 - God is stepping in for Mordecai, Esther, and the Jews
 - God causes the king to not be able to sleep
 - He also draws the attention of the king to Mordecai's name and act
 - As a result, the king rewards Mordecai by honoring him
 - Haman is trapped by his own pride
 - He has to honor Mordecai
 - His wife recognizes that because the king honors Mordecai, Haman's accusations and gallows mean danger for the family
 - He goes to the queen's banquet along with the king
- **Esther 7:9-10**
 - Haman's plan to execute Mordecai backfires on him—he is hanged instead
- **Esther 8:15-17; Esther 10:3**
 - At the death of the enemy, the Jews celebrate
- Application
 - Haman's legacy is one of disgrace
 - His family is left with nothing—they lost it all
 - Mordecai's legacy is one of honor
 - Mordecai raised Esther as his daughter

***Esther 2:7** Mordecai had a cousin named Hadassah, whom he had brought up because she had neither father nor mother. This girl, who was also known as Esther, was lovely in form and features, and Mordecai had taken her as his own daughter when her father and mother died.*

- Mordecai's influence on Esther is evident

***Esther 4:13-14** he sent back this answer: "Do not think that because you are in the king's house you alone of all the Jews will escape. **14** For if you remain silent at this time, relief and deliverance for the Jews will arise from another place, but you and your father's family will perish. And who knows but that you have come to royal position for such a time as this?"*

- Their legacy—their name is associated with the feast of Purim
- Every year on the 14th day of Adar (Feb-March)
- For 2016 (March 23-24)

Coram Deo

What kind of legacy will you leave with your children and children's children? What kind of legacy will you leave with the church? It starts with your relationship to Christ. Joshua left behind a rich legacy for his family when he declared to the Israelites:

***Joshua 24:15** And if it seems evil to you to serve the Lord, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the Lord.*

This is what it is all about in our life. Serving the Lord is our purpose and our joy. This is what we teach children and impart to the community. When we die, this legacy will last.