

“Son” Flowers... A Devotional by the members of New Hope Church in Cooper, TX

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Scripture Verse Reference: Proverbs 13:22 ***“A good man leaves an inheritance to his children’s children...”***

A Legacy of Love

Driving one morning, I listened to one of my favorite Randy Travis songs; “*Three Wooden Crosses*”. To say I’ve listened to this song 100s of times would not be an exaggeration; but for some reason, God chose that morning to teach me something. A part of the song’s chorus goes; “... *It’s not what you take when you leave this world behind you; it’s what you leave behind you when you go...*” As I sang along, it made me think about my legacy; “*What am I leaving behind for my family, for my friends?*” In thinking about that question, I came to the realization that my legacy will be the life I’ve led. I realized that my legacy is less about the money I’ve earned or possessions I’ve amassed; more, it’s about what people will think of or say about me when I’ve left this world. Will my legacy be one of someone who lived with godly character? Will it be one of integrity and morality? Will my legacy be one of trustworthiness? Will it be one of showing the people in my life that I loved and cherished them?

Then I thought about; “*What legacy did Christ leave?*” My conclusion was that Jesus Christ left us a legacy of love—God’s love—demonstrated by how He lived His life. As I thought about that, the Holy Spirit reminded me of John 17:1, which sums up Jesus’ life in the words He prayed; “***Father, the hour has come. Glorify your Son, that your Son may glorify you.***” WOW! Think about that for a second. As Christ was praying during the Last Supper, just before His betrayal, capture, and crucifixion, He wasn’t focused on himself; instead He focused on glorifying God. Man that hit me hard; talk about someone failing to measure up! As I thought about that, I realized how much my life falls short of the standard Christ set for us. Christ’s human life was about leaving a legacy of God’s love for His world. Let’s look at how Christ’s life glorified God;

- **Jesus was Humble**—Jesus never focused attention on himself, but on God. He glorified God through his humility. Think about when He asked John the Baptist to baptize Him. How humble was that?
- **Jesus was Proven by Temptation**—Could you have withstood the temptations of the flesh Christ did after fasting for 40 days in the desert?
- **Jesus was Patient**—Just think about His interactions with His disciples. How many times would you have asked; “*What do ya’ think Sparky?*” upon the endless questioning about the lessons he taught.
- **Jesus was Focused on His Mission**—Jesus, as a child, learned and observed the laws of nature and the prophets; and as an adult, He dedicated His life to the mission He was called to – to redeem mankind.
- **Jesus was Dependent Upon God**—As a human, Jesus constantly depended on God, to lead, inspire, provision, and prepare Him.
- **Jesus was Obedient to God in All Things**—Christ’s entire life was the perfect, sinless example of how we, as Christians, should live.
- **Jesus was Faithful to God**—To the point of giving up His own life to redeem God’s children. In every miracle He performed, His faith—the same that is given to us upon our salvation—was demonstrated.

The legacy we leave behind is the life we lead. It’s not too late for each of us to leave a legacy of God’s love through our lives by following the example Christ gave us so that we might pass it onto others.

“Father, we come to you this morning, grateful for the mercy and grace you give to us. Often, we are not worthy of the love you give us; yet you are always faithful to love us. I thank you God for showing me how I too can create a legacy of love that glorifies you. Help us to live a life that models Christ’s example and demonstrates that His sacrifice was not in vain. In Jesus’ precious name we pray.” - Amen

