

## Introduction:

Thomas Jefferson said, "Too old to plant trees for my own gratification, I shall do it for posterity." The fact is we are all going to leave a number of things behind.

### I) Three Examples

#### A) Jeroboam

***1 Kings 12:27 "If these people go up to offer sacrifices in the house of the LORD at Jerusalem, then the heart of this people will turn back to their lord, Rehoboam king of Judah, and they will kill me and go back to Rehoboam king of Judah." 28 Therefore the king asked advice, made two calves of gold, and said to the people, "It is too much for you to go up to Jerusalem. Here are your gods, O Israel, which brought you up from the land of Egypt!" 29 And he set up one in Bethel, and the other he put in Dan. 30 Now this thing became a sin, for the people went to worship before the one as far as Dan. 31 He made shrines on the high places, and made priests from every class of people, who were not of the sons of Levi. 32 Jeroboam ordained a feast on the fifteenth day of the eighth month, like the feast that was in Judah, and offered sacrifices on the altar. So he did at Bethel, sacrificing to the calves that he had made. And at Bethel he installed the priests of the high places which he had made.***

1. He left behind a false religion including idols, false priesthood, and false places to worship.
2. At his death the religion continued and was a snare to Israel

from that time until their exile.

**1 Kings 14:16** *"And He will give Israel up because of the sins of Jeroboam, who sinned and who made Israel sin."* A fitting saying on his tombstone.

3. This is said about one of the most wicked kings of Israel, Ahab.

**2 Kings 3:3** *Nevertheless he persisted in the sins of Jeroboam the son of Nebat, who had made Israel sin; he did not depart from them.*

## B) David

**Acts 13:22** *"And when He had removed him, He raised up for them David as king, to whom also He gave testimony and said, 'I have found David the son of Jesse, a man after My own heart, who will do all My will.'*

1. Like all of us David was not perfect but he is remembered for his love for God.
2. Other kings were noted for "walking in the ways of David". This is said about Josiah.

**2 Kings 22:2** *And he did what was right in the sight of the LORD, and walked in all the ways of his father David; he did not turn aside to the right hand or to the left.*

3. His love actually affected the way God dealt with Judah. Jehoram was not a good king of Judah but this is said about God's punishment on Judah.

**2 Kings 8:19** *Yet the LORD would not destroy Judah, for the sake of his servant David, as He promised him to*

*give a lamp to him and his sons forever.*

- C) The point being some people leave good behind and some bad. It is up to us.

**Acts 9:36** *At Joppa there was a certain disciple named Tabitha, which is translated Dorcas. This woman was full of good works and charitable deeds which she did. 37 But it happened in those days that she became sick and died. When they had washed her, they laid her in an upper room. 38 And since Lydda was near Joppa, and the disciples had heard that Peter was there, they sent two men to him, imploring him not to delay in coming to them. 39 Then Peter arose and went with them. When he had come, they brought him to the upper room. And all the widows stood by him weeping, showing the tunics and garments which Dorcas had made while she was with them.*

## II) Some Things You Will Leave Behind

### A) Memories

1. Dorcas left behind more than things. She left behind memories.
2. That is some thing we will all leave behind as they will remember us.
3. Often people remember things like meals and favorite foods, love for sports or a sport team, or favorite cologne, and a host of other things.
4. What will they remember about your character?
  - a. Your honesty- **Proverbs 12:19** *The truthful lip shall be established forever, But a lying tongue is but*

*for a moment.*

- b. Your good nature, love for people, hospitality. ***Romans 12:13*** *distributing to the needs of the saints, given to hospitality.*
  - c. Your love for God and His word – there are people who love to talk about God’s word and they will always bring him up in a conversation. ***1 Thessalonians 1:2*** *We give thanks to God always for you all, making mention of you in our prayers, 3 remembering without ceasing your work of faith, labor of love, and patience of hope in our Lord Jesus Christ in the sight of our God and Father,*
  - d. Will they remember your faithfulness to the Lord and your love for worship? I remember my dad, hearing him practice his songs while getting ready for work. Steve Schultz spoke of his dad practicing his sermon in the car on the way to the church building.
5. The memory you leave behind can help lead someone to Christ or encourage someone to remain faithful in times of trials.

## **B) Your reputation**

- 1. What will people say about you when you are gone?
- 2. Will they speak about your honesty, trustworthiness, virtue?
- 3. One of the qualities mentioned in ***Acts 6*** while seeking men to take care of the Grecian widows was reputation.

***Acts 6:3*** *"Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit*

*and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business;*

4. Your reputation will be here after you are gone. Don't leave behind a reputation as a gossip or untrustworthy person.

### **C) Your influence**

1. You don't know the number of times I have heard people speak of the influence their mom/dad had and continues to have in their life.

***Proverbs 22:6*** *Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it.*

2. Timothy was taught to respect God and His word by his mother and grandmother.

***2 Timothy 1:5*** *when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.*

3. Mom/dad spend time studying your Bible and let your children know it is important to you.
4. Become a Christian if you are not one so your children will know what a Christian is.
5. Serve God with all your heart so they will know what a faithful Christian does.

***2 Timothy 3:14*** *But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them, 15 and that from childhood you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.*

6. The most important thing you will do as a parent is to teach your children about God.

**D) You will leave behind your material wealth.**

1. Take nothing with you.
2. Think of the rich man in the story of Lazarus and the rich man.

**Luke 16:19** *"There was a certain rich man who was clothed in purple and fine linen and fared sumptuously every day.*

**Luke 16:23** *"And being in torments in Hades, he lifted up his eyes and saw Abraham afar off, and Lazarus in his bosom. 24 "Then he cried and said, 'Father Abraham, have mercy on me, and send Lazarus that he may dip the tip of his finger in water and cool my tongue; for I am tormented in this flame.'*

**Luke 16:25** *"But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.*

**III) What You Will Not Leave Behind**

**A) Your relationship with God**

1. God knew who Lazarus was and his spiritual condition.

**Luke 16:25** *"But Abraham said, 'Son, remember that in your lifetime you received your good things, and likewise Lazarus evil things; but now he is comforted and you are tormented.*

2. The Lord knows those who are His, **2 Timothy 2.19**
3. A departed Christian is still a Christian.

**1 Thessalonians 4:14** *For if we believe that Jesus died and rose again, even so God will bring with Him those who sleep in Jesus. 15 For this we say to you by the word of the Lord, that we who are alive and remain until the coming of the Lord will by no means precede those who are asleep.*

**B) Your good works**

**Revelation 14:13** *Then I heard a voice from heaven saying to me, "Write: 'Blessed are the dead who die in the Lord from now on.'" "Yes," says the Spirit, "that they may rest from their labors, and their works follow them."*

1. This is one of the few things I can find that you can take with you. What kind of works will follow you on the other side of the grave?

**Conclusion:**

What you leave behind and what you take with you depends on you. How you are living your life and who you are living it for. If we can help you in becoming a child of God, let us know as we stand and sing.