



The Overflowing Life

Week 5

Legacy: Living Beyond Yourself

Warm-up

- Legacy is defined as “something handed down from one generation to another.”
- Based on this definition, who has left the most powerful legacy (either positive or negative) in your life?
- Describe the legacy that was left to you.

Legacy as a Response to God’s Grace

1. Leaving a legacy (and everything else we do in life) is based on God’s grace. Read 1 Timothy 1:12-16. What strikes you about Paul’s experience of God’s grace? (Keep in mind that this letter was written towards the end of his life).

We explored three questions from our text about legacies ...

Did I finish well?

2. Read 2 Timothy 4:6-8. Recall that Paul’s death was imminent and that this was his final chance to leave a legacy to his loved ones. What images strike you about Paul’s desire to finish well?
3. How does this passage encourage/challenge you in your quest to finish well?

Did I love well?

4. Skim through verses 9-21 and note the number of times that Paul mentions his friends (or “ex-friends” who have now hurt Paul). What impresses you about this list?
5. Notice how Paul described his ache for his friend Timothy (4:9 and 4:21 and 2 Tim 1:4). Matt talked about an old man who told him, “In these latter years of my life I just ache for my friends.” Do you think that’s going too far? Why or why not? Do you have friends like that? What steps do you need to take to have friendships like those Paul described in 2 Tim 1:4?

Did I suffer well?

6. Read verses 16-18. How does the truth in these verses bring comfort and encouragement to those who are suffering?
7. In his sermon Matt said, “Life is difficult. Eventually life will break your heart ... The question then will be: will I suffer well or will I suffer poorly?” What is the difference between suffering well and suffering poorly?

Action Point:

- We’ve explored three questions about leaving a legacy. Which question challenges you the most? Why? How can this small group pray for you?
- How can you encourage someone outside your group to finish well, love well or suffer well?