

## How Much More: The Gift of Legacy

05.16.2021

### Turn to Acts 5 (Page 746)

Welcome

Online welcome

Today is week 2 of our series – “How much more”

And we’re considering the gift of legacy

To get our minds going in the direction of legacy

### I’d like you to consider Britain’s own Prince Charles

November 14, 1948 – Charles was born

On February 6, 1952 – Elizabeth, his mom, became... the queen

Charles was three years old when he became “next in line”

Since that time

For almost 70 years now

Charles has been... waiting

His life’s legacy... has been waiting

Which means he has very little responsibility

But as Britain’s prince and heir apparent

He has many perks

And many servants

In fact, it may be easier to show you what Charles’ life is like

By describing the things that Charles *doesn’t* do

For instance:

Charles doesn't ever button his own shirt

He has servants to do that

Charles doesn't ever put toothpaste on his toothbrush

He's never done that

Let me say this again

He's 70 years old

And he's never put toothpaste on his own toothbrush

Charles doesn't ever pick something up

If he drops something

He calls one of the aids from another room

To pick it up for him so he doesn't have to bend over

Charles' pajamas

Are pressed – ironed – every day

Charles' shoelaces

Are pressed – ironed – every day

Let's stop just a second

If I paid taxes in England

I'd be mad every day

If you were hiring wait staff for your home

To do things around the house that you don't want to do

Or don't have time to do

How far down your want list would you have to go

To hire a shoelace ironer?

Or a tooth-paster?

Prince Charles apparently eats one softboiled egg every morning

But because he's so picky  
He reportedly has his chef make 7 softboiled eggs  
In ascending degrees of firmness  
So he can test... and pick his favorite... every morning  
The other six get trashed

Royal Family expert Robert Hazell sums up Charles' legacy

**“He is at an age when most people are starting to contemplate retirement, yet he’s not actually started the job he has spent his adult life preparing for. That is burdensome.” - Professor Robert Hazell**

I would suggest to you that Prince Charles  
Worldly speaking  
Was born into one of the world's greatest legacies  
More money than he could spend  
Worldwide fame from the day he took his first breath  
And all of those built in advantages  
Allowed him to... Let's just say

**Outkick his coverage... you know, relationally**

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The world offers us a chance at legacy

But God offers us  
So much more

Let's look at Acts 5

This is a great account  
Read Acts 5:27-28

“Filled Jerusalem with your teaching”  
They really did

Let's take a second to look at that:

**Acts 2:41 - Those who accepted his message were baptized, and about three thousand were added to their number that day.**

3,000 in one day!

Typically, in ancient society

They just counted the men

So very likely, you had 3,000 women

And 3-4,000 kids

So in Acts 2:41, you're probably at about 10,000 people

**Acts 2:47 - The Lord added to their number daily those who were being saved.**

The average church in America is 90 people

And people get skeptical when churches grow much beyond that

But the Biblical standard for church growth is at least 365 *new* people

Each year!

**Acts 4:4 - But many who heard the message believed; so the number of men who believed grew to about five thousand.**

Help me with the math

Now we're at about... 15,000

**Acts 5:14 - Nevertheless, more and more men and women believed in the Lord and were added to their number.**

The church is just surging and surging!

**Acts 6:1a – In those days when the number of disciples was increasing, the Hellenistic Jews among them complained**

OK, now we're talking about church

We got some complaints

It's about time

So they had a little logistics problem

They had grown very rapidly

So some people weren't getting cared for properly  
The leaders got together  
Prayed  
Raised up a few new leaders and put them in charge of the problem  
And then, in verse 7, it says:

**Acts 6:7 – So the word of God spread. The number of disciples in Jerusalem increased rapidly, and a large number of priests became obedient to the faith.**

It wasn't rapid before  
But now – post complaint  
Now its hittin on all cylinders

Famous Bible scholar B.H. Carroll estimates that the Jerusalem church grew to 100,000 people over the first 25 years

So catch this

Imagine it's 55 AD  
25 years after Jesus' resurrection  
And the church in Jerusalem is 100,000 people  
In a city of about 200,000 people  
"You have filled Jerusalem with your teaching"  
Is an understatement

Read Acts 5:28b-32

Catch something here  
These are bold statements  
They are standing in front of this deliberative body  
That has the power to have them executed  
Just as they had Jesus executed a few weeks earlier

I mean, I got a little nervous talking to the planning commission in Spring Hill

About a church building

But here you have Peter declaring

Reread 29b-30

**This is the same Peter who got nervous when a little girl pressured him** {Show Matthew 26:69-72 - Now Peter was sitting out in the courtyard, and a servant girl came to him. "You also were with Jesus of Galilee," she said. But he denied it before them all. "I don't know what you're talking about," he said. Then he went out to the gateway, where another servant girl saw him and said to the people there, "This fellow was with Jesus of Nazareth." He denied it again, with an oath: "I don't know the man!"}

But now he's looking boldly at the whole ruling council

And declaring, "you killed (Him) by hanging Him on a cross."

What changed?

What changed?

Peter... literally spoke with Jesus...

Multiple times... after Jesus rose from the dead

That'll change a guy

Read Acts 5:33-34

Let's talk about Gamaliel a bit

Gamaliel was a key leader in the Jewish faith of that day

He was the grandson of Hillel

Who was essentially the founder of the Pharisees

Look at this quote from the Mishnah

Which is a first century Jewish commentary

**"When Rabban Gamaliel the Elder died, the glory of the Torah came to an end." [Sotah 9.15]**

Those are pretty significant words

For a Jewish Rabbi

Notice it doesn't call him Rabbi

But rather, Rabban

Rabbi means "my teacher"

So I have a Rabbi

You may have follow a different Rabbi

"Rabban" means "our teacher"

To be called Rabban was the highest of honors

Rabban is saying "He teaches *all of us*"

BTW - I had a new thought hit me this week about Gamaliel

I love it when Scripture

It has so many layers

I love it when I see something new in Scripture

It hit me this week

That when Peter is testifying before Gamaliel and the others

Paul may have been there

We know that Paul studied under Gamaliel

Because he told the Jerusalem crowd that in Acts 22:

**Acts 22:2b-3a - Then Paul said: "I am a Jew, born in Tarsus of Cilicia, but brought up in this city. I studied under Gamaliel and was thoroughly trained in the law of our ancestors."**

And we know that Paul was actively trying to destroy the church a short while later:

**Acts 8:1a (NLT) - Saul was one of the witnesses, and he agreed completely with the killing of Stephen.**

So my question

Was Paul there *that* day?  
I don't know that it changes anything  
But how fascinating if Paul  
As a younger man  
As a part of his training  
Was able to witness Peter & Gamaliel go toe to toe

Read Acts 5:35-39

**“Gamaliel refers to two Jewish revolutionaries — Theudas and Judas — who were killed by the Romans, and their followers scattered (5:36-37). His implication is that if the Christian movement is another attempted revolution, the Roman military will kill its leaders and crush the movement. The Jewish leaders don't need to get involved in something that might backfire on them.” – Dr. Gary Deddo**

The Romans were very good at getting rid of revolutionaries

Theudas

Judas

And now Jesus

And if Jesus is just another guy

It'll all go away

He'll go away

Gamaliel is wisely asking the question

“Will this matter 100 years from now?”

Turns out that it did

Turns out that He did



He still does!

Read Acts 5:40-42

And because they never stopped

Because they were willing to boldly object to the ruling council

Because they were willing to take a beating

This is our legacy

And Gamaliel's wise bet

That this will all just go away if it's not from God

Has verified year after year

That Jesus is more than just a simple carpenter

Jesus can't be silenced with an arrest

Jesus can't be silenced with a crucifixion

Jesus can't be silenced by flogging His friends

This is our legacy

If you had asked a Roman soldier to make a bet...

There are 5 main biographies about Julius Caesar – everyone knows the names of those 5 guys, right?

No?

**Well, let me show you {Show Plutarch, Suetonius, Cicero, Sallust, and Titus Livius}**

Let's try another one

There are 4 main biographies about Nero

The emperor who came to power a few years after Jesus' crucifixion

Do you know the names of those 4 men?

No?

**Ok, let me give them to you also: Tacitus, Cassius Dio, Josephus, Pliny the Elder**

So what about Jesus of Nazareth?

There are four main biographies of Jesus

His followers called them the four Gospels

Can anybody name those 4 men?

Jesus is so dominant in our world that you not only know about his life

You know the names of His four biographers!

Before we clear this screen

Let's take a closer look

{Read list}

Does anybody know anybody by these names?

Let's compare that to Jesus:

If your first or middle name is Matthew, or you have a close friend or relative who's first or middle name is Matthew, please raise your hand

And keep it raised

Mark, Luke, John

Today, we name our kids Matthew, Mark, Luke, John, Peter, Paul & Mary

And we name our dogs Nero

And we get our pizzas from little Caesar

The world's best legacy

Is rubbish compared to the lasting impact

We can make through the good news of Jesus Christ

Listen to me

A hundred years from now

None of us will be here

And our great-great grandchildren will be our age

Let me let that sink in a second

A hundred years from now

Your great-great grandchildren will be your age

What's your legacy then?

All the trophies that we build for ourselves won't matter in 100 years:

Our car will be rusted away in a scrap heap somewhere

Our house will probably have been torn down by then

So that someone whose not been born yet can build a newer, nicer home  
on that same piece of dirt

And get rid of that old janky thing you're paying all those payments for

And if you're company is still in business, no one there will know anything about  
you

What's your legacy 100 years from now?

Let's see if we can get a picture:

Look what God says to Noah

*After* he built the ark

**And God said, “This is the sign of the covenant I am making between me and you and every living creature with you, a covenant *for all generations to come* – Genesis 9:12**

Next one

Let’s look at what God says to Abraham

**I will make you very fruitful; I will make nations of you, and kings will come from you. I will establish my covenant as an everlasting covenant between me and you and your descendants after you *for the generations to come*, to be your God and the God of your descendants after you. – Genesis 17:6-7**

Let’s look at another

When Jesus was on the cross

**About three in the afternoon Jesus cried out in a loud voice... “My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?” – Matthew 27:46**

Jesus was quoting the first stanza of a very well-known Psalm

Just like today

If someone quotes the first line of a famous song

You sing the rest in your head

Jesus is quoting the first verses of Psalm 22

Which prophecies His crucifixion

Before crucifixion was even invented yet

Amazing – Psalm 22

Read it later

That was the first verses of Psalm 22

“My God, My God, why have You forsaken Me?”

Look at the last verses in Psalm 22:

(I picked the Message translation)

This was the message that Jesus wanted them reciting in their head

While watching Him die for them on the cross

**Our children and their children will get in on this as the Word is passed along from parent to child. Babies not yet conceived will hear the Good News - that God does what He says. – Psalm 22:30-31**

Look at what David writes

When he's getting to the end of his life

And he's looking back over his life

At his successes

And failures

What matters then?

Cause listen

If you can live like what matters when you're old

Before you get old

Your life will have great impact

And you will leave a massive legacy

So much more than anything the world offers you

**Psalm 71:18 - Even when I am old and gray, do not forsake me, my God, till I declare Your power to the next generation, Your mighty acts to all who are to come.**

Whether you're single or married

Whether you have kids or no kids

Your legacy is people

There are so many ways to waste your time

So, so many ways to waste your money

Countless ways we can waste our life

And yet following Jesus leads to great impact

Great legacy

Great reward

**Matthew 10:42 (MSG) - This is a large work I've called you into, but don't be overwhelmed by it. It's best to start small. Give a cool cup of water to someone who is thirsty, for instance. The smallest act of giving or receiving makes you a true apprentice. You won't lose out on a thing."**

Bottom line:

If you want more than the legacy this world offers

If you want more than trophies that will fade away

Will you commit, now, to:

**Consume less time 'now' so that you can invest more time forward to what's eternal {Show Now < Eternity}**

Talk to your family or friends or LifeGroup

Commit to pray

Take time to consider

How can I consume less time 'now' so that I can invest more time into what's 'eternal'?

Also, commit to consume less money 'now' so that you can invest more money forward to what's eternal

Talk to your family or friends or LifeGroup

Commit to pray

Take time to consider

How can I consume less 'now' so that I can invest more 'eternal'?