

Living to Leave a Legacy

Intro

Jack Lucas and teens of today

Leaving a Legacy of the Gospel

Mark 8:34-36

Our vision for our church, the family, youth ministry, and children's ministry is to shout out the greatness and glory of the gospel of Jesus that our kids are inspired to live a life worthy of that gospel. No bystanders allowed!

The Freeing Nature of Biography

Reading the testimony of other men and women of faith provokes us toward and stirs us up toward love and good deeds (Heb. 10:24).

Rev. 12:11 (ESV)

And they have conquered him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, for they loved not their lives even unto death.

Biography frees us from self-occupation by getting our eyes off of ourselves with inspiring stories to live for the cause of the gospel. Biographies give wonderful examples of men and women who have loved the gospel more than their own lives. Their stories breed faith and confidence toward godly living.

The Compelling Story of John Paton

Born in Scotland May 1824.

Urban missionary in Glasgow for many years before desiring to bring the gospel overseas.

Missionary to the New Hebrides Islands (present day Vanuatu)...

He arrived on the island of Tanna in Nov. 1858...he lived in uncertainty with the ones that one day would promise security and the next declare death and cannibalism. But he never backed down...

- Clever thieves and ships of fire
- Three plums and *nahok*
- A loaded musket wherever he went

He was eventually run off the island of Tanna with very little fruit being evident. He went to back to Scotland, then to Australia to raise more money and awareness, and then went to labor on the island of Aniwa.

- The digging of a well broke the back of dark religion on Aniwa

He died in 1907...a courageous long life well worth all of it for the gospel.

The Source of John Paton's Courage

His courage came from a unique awareness and experience of the sovereignty and presence of God.

- A tree on Tanna

His courage came from his father

- The 'Closet'
- Ruled by love
- A father's prayers
- A farewell

Living toward a Legacy

A life with a single, great passion

Lived with a desire to be swallowed up in a desire to love God, obey him, and sacrifice comfort to experience his kingdom

John 12:24-26