

Lessons I Learned From Dad

A Father's Day Message

Big Idea: A father's legacy: Living a simple life surrendered to Jesus. The most important lesson? The gospel is paramount. We can't earn salvation through good works - it's only through faith in Christ. "Jesus is good." Trust in His finished work, not your own righteousness.

Day 1: Valuing
God's Word

Reading:
Joshua 1:8-9,
Colossians 3:16-17

Just as Pastor Tim's father deeply valued God's Word, we too are called to treasure Scripture. Joshua 1:8 encourages us to meditate on God's law day and night. This isn't about rote memorization, but about letting God's truth permeate our hearts and minds. Colossians 3:16 further emphasizes letting the Word of Christ dwell in us richly. Today, reflect on your own relationship with Scripture. Do you approach it as a chore, or as life-giving sustenance? Challenge yourself to not just read, but to truly engage with God's Word. Let it shape your thoughts, guide your decisions, and overflow into your interactions with others. As you do, you may find, that Scripture naturally bubbles up in your conversations and daily life.

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Day 2: A Life
of Praise

Reading:
Psalm 34:1-3, 1
Thessalonians 5:16-18

Pastor Tim's father was known for his constant praise, even answering the phone with "Praise the Lord!" This echoes the psalmist's declaration to praise God at all times. Such praise isn't dependent on circumstances, but on the unchanging nature of God. 1 Thessalonians calls us to rejoice always and give thanks in all circumstances. This doesn't mean we ignore difficulties, but rather that we choose to see God's goodness even in challenging times. Today, practice intentional praise. Start your day by listing three things you're grateful for. Throughout the day, look for opportunities to express thankfulness, both to God and to others. As you cultivate a habit of praise, you may find your perspective shifting, focusing more on God's faithfulness than on life's challenges.

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Day 3: The Power of Prayer

Reading:
Philippians 4:6-7,
Romans 12:12

The message described prayer as a "steering wheel, not a spare tire." This powerful metaphor reminds us that prayer should guide our lives, not just be an emergency measure. Philippians 4 encourages us to bring everything to God in prayer, promising His peace in return. Romans 12 calls us to be faithful in prayer. Consider your own prayer life. Do you turn to God first, or as a last resort? Today, challenge yourself to make prayer your first response to every situation. Whether you face a difficult decision, a moment of joy, or a mundane task, pause to connect with God. As you do, you may find, that prayer becomes a natural and constant part of your day, guiding you in all things.

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Day 4: Living Out Sacrificial Love

Reading:
1 Corinthians 13:4-8,
Ephesians 5:1-2

Pastor Tim shared how his father exemplified sacrificial love, particularly in his marriage. This kind of love reflects Christ's love for us, as described in 1 Corinthians 13. It's patient, kind, not self-seeking. Ephesians 5 calls us to walk in love, as Christ loved us and gave himself up for us. Today, reflect on your own relationships. Where might God be calling you to demonstrate more sacrificial love? This could mean choosing patience when frustrated, offering forgiveness when hurt, or putting someone else's needs before your own. Remember, we love not out of our own strength, but out of the overflow of God's love for us. Ask God to fill you with His love today, that it might spill over into all your interactions.

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Day 5: The Gospel
Above All

Reading:
Philippians 3:7-11,
Romans 3:21-24

The most crucial lesson from the message was the paramount importance of the gospel. In Philippians 3, Paul considers everything a loss compared to the surpassing worth of knowing Christ. He recognizes that his own righteousness is insufficient, and instead clings to the righteousness that comes through faith in Christ. Romans 3 further emphasizes that we are justified freely by God's grace through faith in Jesus. Today, examine your own heart. Are you trying to earn God's favor through good works, or are you resting in the finished work of Christ? Remember, as Pastor Tim's father said in his final days, "Jesus is good." Our hope lies not in our own goodness, but in His. Let this truth free you from striving and lead you into grateful worship. As you go about your day, look for opportunities to share this good news with others.

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