## Becoming a Kingdom Legacy Woman

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## **BECOMING A KINGDOM LEGACY WOMAN**

At our 2019 Secret Sister Reveal, we reflected on what it meant to be a Kingdom Legacy woman. Since then, several of you have asked for the information to be shared in a blog and we've finally gotten around to doing that.

## Why is legacy important?

The story is told of Alfred Nobel who woke up one day to find his obituary prematurely reported in the local paper which described him as the "merchant of death" for his role in the production and distribution of deadly products such as dynamite. Though this story appears to be a legend, it is said that after reading his own obituary, Alfred Nobel was inspired to rectify his legacy and made a decision to leave his fortunes to be awarded as Nobel Prizes. And since its inception, the Nobel Prize Foundation has donated 597 prizes to 950 laureates in six categories, while earning a coveted reputation of high prestige internationally.

Source: https://www.nobelprize.org/prizes/facts/nobel-prize-facts/

The meaning of legacy can be broad, among other things, referring to something that is left to someone in a will, inheritance, heritage, birthright, or gift. It is the idea of holding onto something long enough that you can pass it on to someone long after you're gone or valuing something enough that you intentionally take care of it.

The Bible speaks about legacy in several places and we know that legacy is treasured by God. Proverbs 13:22 says that "A good man leaves an inheritance to his children's children..." Other notable passages such as Numbers 27:1-7 describes the case of five daughters of Zelophehad who were from the tribe of Manasseh, and how they petitioned Moses for their father's inheritance to protect his (and their) legacy. In those days, inheritance was normally passed down to sons and not daughters. God clearly confirmed to Moses that these daughters had the right to that inheritance (v7). In yet another example from 2 Kings 8:1-6, the Shunammite woman petitioned the king for her house and land and the king also granted her petition. So in God's eyes, legacy matters to women just as much as it matters to men.

Ultimately, our legacy will be the most enduring part of us. Jesus modeled a great example of having a defined legacy. He took twelve men, shared His heart, ministry, life and vision with them and exemplified a life of legacy that continues to have eternal impact for every generation that has followed.

## How do we leave a legacy that matters?

As Christian women, we can duplicate Jesus' example with the help of the Holy Spirit and through prayer. It will positively impact our relationships with our families, co-workers and friends as we prayerfully and intentionally think about the kind of impact we are making professionally, as mothers, daughters, sisters, neighbours, and friends. Working on a kingdom-minded legacy will ensure that our attitudes, presence, words, and actions will be remembered as a pleasant fragrance. Here are some legacy-goals we can all achieve that do not require any financial resources:

- Legacy of joy in the midst of difficulty. (<u>James 1:2-3</u>)
- Legacy of receiving and giving grace. (1 Corinthians 3:10)
- Legacy of encouraging and inspiring others toward greatness. (Hebrews 3:13)
- Legacy of giving time, treasures, and energy for kingdom work. (2 Corinthians 8:7)
- Legacy of modeling forgiveness. (Ephesians 4:32)
- Legacy of unconditional love for family and friends. (1 Peter 4:8)
- Legacy of leading and discipling people to Christ. (<u>1 Thessalonians 2:8</u>)
- Legacy of hearing and doing God's Word. (James 1:22)
- Legacy of doing good and productive work. (<u>1 Corinthians 3:13</u>)
- Legacy of looking towards our heavenly home. (2 Peter 3:13)

May I encourage you to begin today to intentionally think about the legacy you want to leave and work diligently on achieving your legacy goals knowing that everything you say or do will leave an imprint of your life on those around you. In the end, the legacy you live will be the legacy you leave.