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# LEGACY

## ***Making the Impossible Possible***

I want my life to be so well lived it's talked about for years to come. I want the world, country, and city I live in to be marked more for success because I lived in them. However, most importantly, I want to create a foundation for my family that provides them with a jump start to the best lives they can imagine. The life I live will influence the life my daughters have. That's a fact! The thought of doing anything that would hurt them doesn't even register in my mind.

One of the most important questions we can ask before starting anything is *why*. Far too often, we skip over the exercise of asking why and jump right into doing or not doing. However, without a well-understood *why*, our effort often gets lost in the tasks of everyday life. So, why *legacy*? When we have a million and one other things to do, why is focusing on the legacy we'll leave behind worth our time? *Because legacy is the story of our lives*. The lives we've dreamt about living.

We'll never have the life we want if we do not first define exactly what that life is and then create a clear roadmap to get us there. And that is what defining the legacy we want to leave does for us. Every day our actions are writing a page in our stories. You may have heard the saying, "Your life is one big story filled with many chapters." However, did you know we have the ability to write that story, chapter by chapter? Sure, there will be edits and rewrites along the way, and you certainly can't predict the future. But, if you don't write the story you want for your life, you're guaranteed to get an unpredictable result.

What are your values? What is your purpose? What goals should you have? Do you want your life to matter, but don't know where to start? Are you concerned you might not leave

the legacy you want? Do you feel overwhelmed by all of these questions? Don't be. These questions can be answered by being intentional in choosing the life you want to have and the legacy you want to leave.

So, where do you start? And is it possible to create the story we want for our lives when it feels like so much has already been written—so many mistakes or time spent doing the opposite of what we wish the pages of our life story read?

The answer is simple. We start with Jesus. God became a man and died to provide us with a new life. We were born imperfect people who needed someone to save us. Jesus did that and offers a life that's free from guilt and shame of the past. He's the only one who can take the pages already written in our story and change them with grace. A grace we could never deserve or earn. In the introduction to this book, I mentioned that statistically, I should be in jail, doing drugs, or any other list of things contrary to the legacy I want to leave, but I'm not. And it's because I learned about Jesus as a child and decided to give my life to Him.

I didn't magically become perfect from that point on, but I had someone who would forgive and welcome me as His own. Psalms 27:10 says, even though "my father and mother walked out and left me, God took me in." (MSG) I had an example to live by and hope ahead because I made Jesus the foundation on which to build my legacy. He adopted me into His family as a child of God (Ephesians 1:5).

### **He made possible what was once impossible.**

When you walk down the street or get into your car to go to work, look around you. Everything you experience—the buildings, the cars, cell phones, computers—all of it was, at one point, *impossible*. Someone had to look at *impossibility* and dare to think what could be *possible*. Someone had to dream about the possibility of traveling by air. I'm still amazed every time I soar thousands of feet above the ground in an airplane. Someone had to pursue the notion that maybe one day we could carry a computer in our pockets. All innovations can be attributed to someone taking action toward something that once seemed *impossible*.

And that's what Jesus wants to do with our lives. Without Him, creating a legacy worth leaving would be impossible, but with Him, all things are now possible. God is offering us a new life that is empowered by His Spirit. His Spirit can lead you places you could never go on your own. He will allow you to impact the world in ways that you have never dreamed possible. Your job is simple. Your job is to lay down your life as a living sacrifice and surrender your will for the will of the Spirit. (Romans 12:1, Galatians 2:20, Romans 8:14)

What if we began to look at everything typically assumed to be *impossible* and considered it

*possible*? How different would our day look? How much would our outlook shift? How much more could we accomplish with this attitude? The answers are filled with limitless possibilities, but we have to start by thinking differently. This is a conscious decision to look at the glass half full instead of half empty. It's a decision to think "what if" instead of "as if." Instead of instinctively reacting with, "That's impossible!" I want you to begin to make a habit of pausing to consider how it could be *possible* before you draw any conclusions. I want you to strike the phrase, "That's not possible" from your vocabulary. Replace it with, "With Jesus, this is possible." You have the opportunity to rewrite the narrative of your life, to change the story, to be a good dad.

This once seemed impossible to me but is now my reality. *Because anything is possible with Jesus.*

So what are you going to do? Are you going to keep telling yourself things aren't possible? Are you going to keep limiting your belief and presuming you won't be successful in uncharted territory? Are you going to keep putting limits on your legacy by continuing to think of possibilities as *impossibilities*?

There are dads all over the world who are willing to say your *impossibilities* are, in fact, *possible*. And they are the ones taking action, doing something that everyone else thinks is impossible! The more we think this way, the better our world will become. Jesus wants you to see your life and circumstances through the *possible* mindset He's made available to you. He will help you be the dad you were created to be. So, what's your next step?

Jesus is the next step. He died on the cross to take all the punishment for our mistakes (sins). He defeated death and rose again, so we could be forgiven, adopted into His family, and live an impactful life that leaves behind a legacy of His love. When you are ready for this kind of life, pray the simple prayer below and tell another Jesus follower so they can celebrate with you. Then, make sure to get involved in a Bible-believing church. Your life won't be instantly perfect, but making Jesus the foundation of your life story will begin the best legacy you could ever leave.

### **SALVATION PRAYER:**

Jesus, I ask You to live in my heart and help me build a legacy that points to You. Forgive me of the mistakes of my past and give me the purpose that comes from You alone. Without You, I don't have a life worth living, but with You, my impossible becomes possible. In Jesus' name. Amen.

## ACTION QUESTIONS

Have you decided to lay down your old life without Christ? Have you decided to follow Jesus wholeheartedly? Have you decided to give Jesus every piece of your life? If not, you can do this anytime, anywhere.

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Are you willing to let God use you in impossible ways?

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What can you do today to create the future you've always wanted but didn't believe was possible?

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## LESSON ACTIVATION | IT IS POSSIBLE

List the three most important words you want people to say about you when looking back on your life. You may have once thought these to be impossible, but if anything was possible what would they be? (In other words, how do you want your life story to read?)

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_

If there were a sentence to describe how I was \_\_\_\_\_

(Insert answer from **line 1** above),

that sentence would be: \_\_\_\_\_

LEGACY

If there were a sentence to describe how I was \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert answer from **line 2** above),

that sentence would be: \_\_\_\_\_

If there were a sentence to describe how I was \_\_\_\_\_  
(Insert answer from **line 3** on the previous page),

that sentence would be: \_\_\_\_\_

With Jesus, the three qualities above can be part of the story your life will tell. You, your family, and others will be able to say the three qualities above defined the actions you took throughout your life.