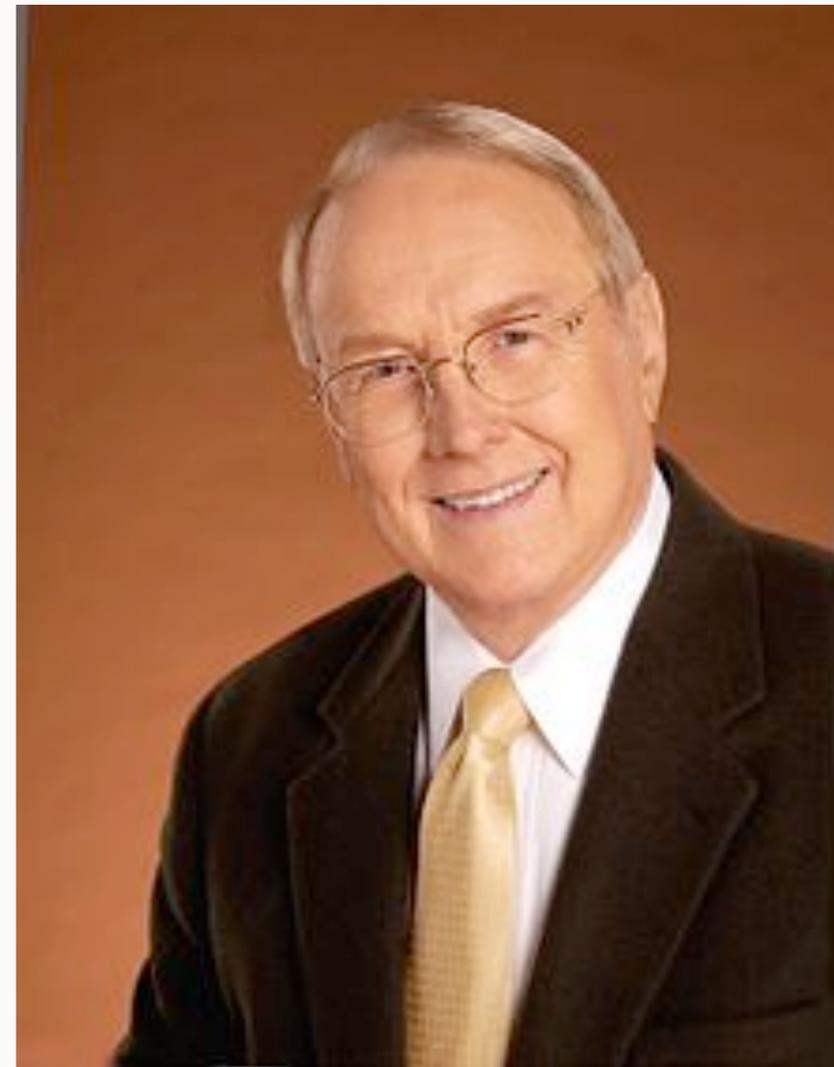
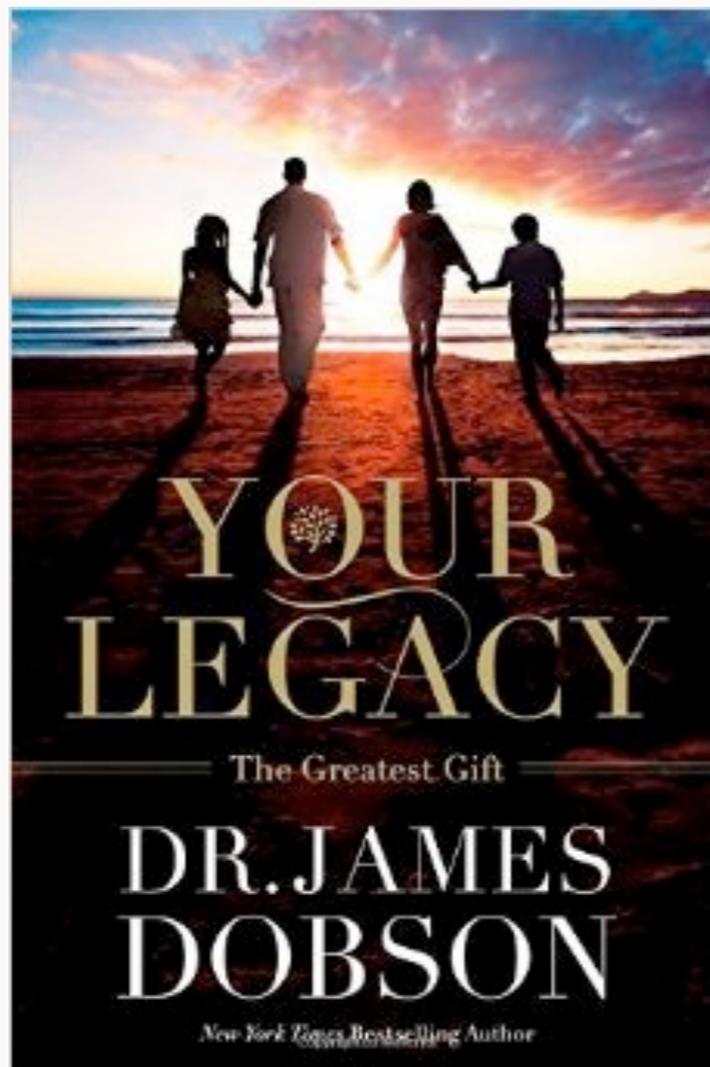


LEAVING A LEGACY

YOUR LEGACY



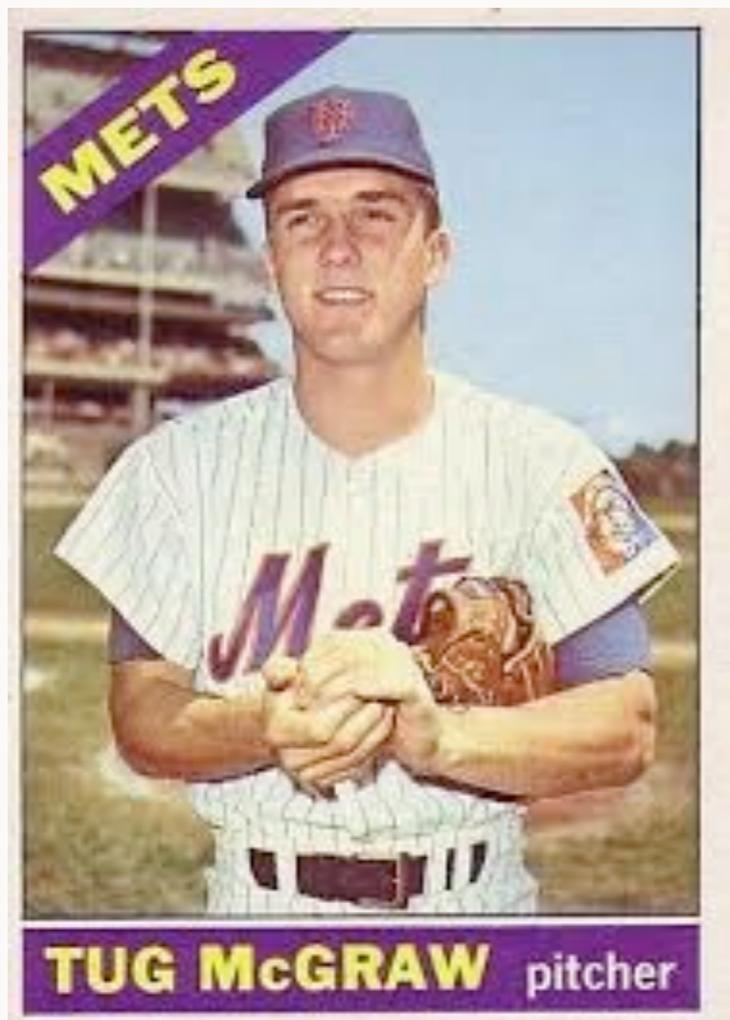
LIFE CHANGE

The changed life of James Dobson's grandfather.



**A LEGACY
THAT LASTS**

BUILDING A LEGACY



Tim McGraw

LEAVING A LEGACY

- Tug McGraw was quite a baseball pitcher. He won two World Series with the New York Mets and later played with the Philadelphia Phillies.
- He might be a game announcer today if it hadn't been for a sudden change of health in 2003.
- By the time the brain tumor was discovered, doctors told him he had only three weeks to live.

LEAVING A LEGACY

- He lived nine months and poured into his family a legacy including reconciling with a part of his past he tried to ignore.
- He had a wife and kids, but he also had another son he had ignored.
- The mother was Elizabeth who didn't tell her son about his famous father, in part because she wanted to move past that part of her life.

LEAVING A LEGACY

- Tim found his birth certificate and discovered that his favorite baseball player was also his father.
- He even changed his name from Tim Trimble to Tim McGraw.
- When he was a teenager he tried to reconcile with Tug, but nothing came of it. But as an adult, he tried again and the Father/Son attraction took and then became close.

LEAVING A LEGACY

- When news came that time was running out, the became even closer.
- Tug McGraw even died at Tim McGraw's Nashville home.
- In 2004, Tim McGraw's song "Live Like You Were Dying" stayed on the top of the charts for 10 weeks.
- It was named the top country song of the year.

LIVE LIKE YOU WERE DYING

- I went sky diving. I went rocky mountain climbing.
- I went 2.7 seconds on a bull name Fumanchu.
- And I loved deeper, And I spoke sweeter, And I gave forgiveness I've been denying.
- And he said someday I hope you get the chance,
- To live like you were dying.

QUESTIONS

- Would it make a difference if you learned you had very little time left?
- Would it change your priorities if you felt life slipping away?
- We are all running out of time.
- The opportunity to leave a legacy we want is one day shorter than it was yesterday.

QUESTION IN THE BIBLE

- One day a man approached Jesus with the same kind of questions (Mark 12:28-31).
- He apparently was wrestling with the same issues.
- He heard scribes debating with Jesus and perceived that He could answer his questions about life and the legacy he might leave.
- He asks Jesus about the most important commandment.

LEGACY OF LOVING GOD

- When Jesus was asked about the most important commandment, He quoted the Shema.
- This is the most important passage for a Jewish person. It is the first verse a Jewish child memorizes.
- The words appear on small scrolls and inserted into a container called a mezuzah that marks the doorway of Jewish homes (Deuteronomy 6:4-9).



LOVING GOD

The Shema

שְׁמַע יִשְׂרָאֵל יְהוָה אֱלֹהֵינוּ יְהוָה אֶחָד׃
וְאַהֲבַתְּ אֶת יְהוָה אֱלֹהֶיךָ בְּכָל-לֵבְבְךָ וּבְכָל-
נַפְשְׁךָ וּבְכָל-מְאֹדְךָ׃

LEGACY OF LOVING GOD

- The question of the most important commandment had long been settled among God's people: Love the Lord God with all your heart, soul, mind, and might.
- But not for Jesus. Notice that He adds to the commandment "to love your neighbor as yourself."
- When Jesus was asked what was required of a believer, He essentially said everything is required: love God and love your neighbor.

LEGACY OF LOVING GOD

- Jesus is asked a different question in Mark 10:17-22.
- A rich young man asked what he must do to inherit eternal life. Jesus tells him to obey the Law, and the man insists he has kept the commandments.
- Jesus then challenges him to “sell all that you have and give it to the poor.”
- The man goes away disheartened.

LEGACY OF LOVING GOD

- Jesus loved the rich young man, but the man could not part with the things he loved.
- Illustration: there were two plagues in Roman Empire (Antonine Plague, the Plague of Cyprian).
- In Rome, as many as 5,000 people died every day. The bodies rotted in the street.
- Pagans fled the city, but Christians stayed to minister to the sick at the risk of their own lives.

LEGACY OF LOVING GOD

- There is no telling how many people were saved because Christians served. There's no telling how many Christians died because they stayed.
- The Roman world saw love in action, and the Christian message exploded because of their faith.
- People could not ignore the actions of people who loved God so passionately they they were willing to give up everything in service to God.

LOVING OTHERS

- Not only should we love God but we should also have a legacy of loving others.
- Jesus answered a conflict that developed in His day.
- One group argued that to properly love God, one must keep His commandments, even if that kept you from helping another person.
- A second group argued that a person in need trumped the law of the Sabbath.

LOVING OTHERS

- But that answer led to another question we see in Luke 10. He was asked, “Who is my neighbor?”
- Jesus then tells the parable of the Good Samaritan, which probably made all of them cringe since that would require them to cross racial lines.
- Jesus crossed all lines: tax collectors (Matthew, Zacchaeus), women (Mary, Martha), prostitutes, and other sinners. Jesus loved them all.

LOVING OTHERS

- Everyone leaves a legacy: either for good or bad.
- At any funeral, pastors and family hardly ever mention work or money or prestige.
- At a funeral we often hear about the legacy the deceased left to the family and community.
- Sometimes we find that the things we considered to be more important in life are not the legacy we leave to others when we leave this earth.

**A LEGACY
THROUGH
LIFE'S LONGEST
JOURNEY**

INTRODUCTION

- The account of the sacrifice of Isaac is a dramatic story in the Old Testament.
- It is without precedent because God (Yahweh) never commanded human sacrifice.
- It is without parallel because no one else had ever been commanded to do it.
- And what would Abram tell Sarai? How could he even face her?



CERTAINTY

- Genesis 22:1 - “After these things” - God was testing the heart of Abram - purity of love and obedience.
- Romans 14:10-12 - “For we must all stand before the judgment seat of God. For it is written: As I live, says the Lord, every knee will bow to Me, and every tongue will give praise to God. So then, each of us will give an account of himself to God.”
- 2 Corinthians 5:10 - “For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ.”

CERTAINTY

Previous testing of Abram:

- Relocation: from Ur of Chaldees to Haran and finally to the area near Hebron.
- Sorrow: his father Terah died in Haran.
- Economic: famine drove them to Egypt.
- Deception: lied about Sarai being his wife.

COMPELLING URGENCY

- Genesis 22:2 - “Take your son . . . and go.”
- When God calls, we should go immediately.
- 2 Corinthians 6:2 - “Now is the acceptable time, look, now is the day of salvation.”
- Hebrews 3:7-8 - “Today if you hear His voice, do not harden your hearts.”
- Imagine the emotional turmoil inside Abram.

CONSISTENT PROVISION

- Genesis 22:2 - the “land of Moriah” - Moriah means “provided by Jehovah.”
- These mountains in Moriah are gifts of His unfailing love and grace.
- God blessed Abram and later the Israelites with this land. God has blessed us with spiritual gifts, a spiritual calling, and the resources to accomplish the tasks He has given to us to achieve.

CLEAR PURPOSE

- Genesis 22:15-18 - “Now I know . . . bless you.”
- The eternal purpose of God is to bless us and to bring us ever back into His loving arms, freed from earthly fears of loss, danger or failure.
- We can be secure in His presence: Psalm 91:1-2 - “The one who lives under the protection of the Most High dwells in the shadow of the Almighty. I will say to the Lord, ‘My refuge and my fortress, my God, in whom I trust.’”

COMPETING PRIORITIES

- Genesis 22:2 - “your only son who you love.”
- The gift of God had become more important to Abram than the God who gave the gift.
- It is right for a father to love a son, but we are to “Love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and will all your might” (Deut. 6:5).
- He had conflicting priorities, just as we also have conflicting priorities today.

COMPETING PRIORITIES

- Remember what Jesus said to the church in Ephesus in the book of Revelation - "I have this against you; you have abandoned the love you had at first."
- Today we have many things (finances, comfort, job, position, family) vying for first priority in our lives.
- For Abram it was a difficult journey (3 days in the desert). But in the end, he would say that it was worth it. We have a hard journey as well.

CONQUERING GRACE

- Let's conclude by looking at the "conquering grace of the journey" - Genesis 2:11-14.
- "Do not lay a hand on the boy or do anything to him, for now I know you fear God, since you have not withheld your only son from me."
- Hebrews 11:17-19 - "By faith Abraham, when he was tested, offered up Isaac. . . . He considered God to be able even to raise someone from the dead, from which he also got back as an illustration."

