



Last time we spoke about the spiritual legacy we will leave our children and grandchildren. Today, I will talk about the material legacy we plan to leave them through a **will**, which is simply the document showing the material legacy's division. Normally, it deals with at least three matters:

- 1) Funeral Instructions
- 2) Division of your stuff
- 3) Young children's guardian

Writing a **will** is emotional because you consider your death and separation from loved ones. But for Jesus' followers, it ought to be less difficult as we know we will see Him when we die. Still, it's challenging; besides thinking about our death, we face tough choices such as:

1. Who should prepare the will?
2. Who should oversee the estate: The "Executor"?
3. Who should get our "stuff": The "Beneficiaries"?
4. When should they get them?
5. Who should be our children's guardian if two parents die?

Jesus' followers don't have to deal with these decisions alone. **Jesus is our decision-maker**. He knows our hearts and our motives, and wants us to bring all decisions to Him. Pray; ask Him to lead you to the person or organization to carry out your wish to be a good steward through your will. Jesus will give you confidence as He leads you to right choices.

Recall Jesus' Words to His followers in Matthew 6:8, "... *your Father knows what you need before you ask.*" We have even more assurance in John 16:24; Jesus said,

John 16:24

**Until now you have not asked for anything in my name.
Ask and you will receive, and your joy will be complete.**

Jesus is telling us to ask for what **He knows is best**. Ask Him to change your heart so **His will becomes your wish**, and to let you become more interested in **knowing Him than getting blessings**. Did you get that? Are you more interested in **getting to know Jesus or in getting blessings for you?** Think about it.

Let's look at two difficult estate-planning decisions.

First, **who should write the will?** You can do it alone, get help from a friend, or choose a professional. If your finances are complex, probably you need professional help. But you must tell whomever you chose clearly and concisely, your wishes and values. Further, you need to feel confident that person or organization can carry out your instructions faithfully.

Presentation to 100 Huntley Street April 13: Estate Planning: The Will

Next, who should be beneficiaries to get your stuff? This is even more challenging, but the same procedure applies, ask Jesus. Your instincts might be to leave all belongings to your descendants but this may not be God's best. Everything belongs to Him; you are His steward. So, ask Him to show you how to allocate these assets for His glory and to further His Kingdom. He might want most of your stuff to go to fund His work!

As we said last time, the only security we have as Christ's followers is eternal life; so we know leaving stuff to descendants won't secure their future.

As you pray to divide your belongings, get to know **planned giving programs** churches and Christian charities run. They are different ways to fund the Great Commission, often with special tax effects.

Your goal throughout estate planning should be to let God direct your stuff's allocation through planned give and, or through your will.

There is another important decision to consider at this time. Who should decide for you if become ill and incapable? A **power of attorney for personal care** is a document that records this decision. Ask God these questions **before preparing your personal care power of attorney**:

1. **What should you decide about life and death medical matters?**
2. **Who should help you prepare this document?**
3. **To whom should you give this authority?**

To close, if you use a professional to write your will and personal care power of attorney, his or her role is to present choices to you; yours is to consult Jesus for right answers as part of your stewardship role.

Do you have an up dated will and personal care power of attorney?

Next time, I will start to discuss goals, plans, budgets, and money maps.
God bless and remember Jesus loves you.