



Sermon Notes: Steve Stanis,
“Wayne's World – Jesus Wins”

20 July 2025

Readings: 2 Kings 2:1-15, 2 Timothy 4:6-8, 17-18; John 15:12-17

Introduction

Today we farewell Wayne. I have titled this sermon ‘Leaving a Legacy in your Ministry’.

What has been happening in Wayne's World? He is focussed on Jesus.

Wayne is, at heart, an evangelist. He wants Jesus proclaimed. His love for the gospel was never confined to the pulpit. It spilled out wherever people had ears to hear.

He has always had a way of speaking passionately but plainly about Jesus, not just to inform minds, but to stir hearts. He believes with every fibre of his being that Jesus changes lives and he has given his own life to making that known.

Wayne has reminded us that *Jesus wins*, not just in eternity, but here and now, in broken streets and open hearts. We are thankful for our ongoing mission partnership together with the Berkeley community. Wayne has left a legacy, as we do. The gospel he preached also lives in us.

As we thank Wayne, we consider what it means to live in such a way that what we leave behind gives life to others.

I. The Passing of the Mantle – 2 Kings 2:1–15

In 2 Kings 2, we meet the prophet Elijah at the end of his ministry. His faithful apprentice Elisha knows the time is near.

Elijah, like Wayne, had walked long and far with the people of God.

He had spoken truth into broken places, challenged kings, called down fire from heaven, and lived a life devoted to God's call. But his time was drawing to a close.

Elisha, grieving yet determined, makes a remarkable request: *“Let me inherit a double portion of your spirit.”* (2 Kings 2:9). He doesn't ask for recognition or status.

He asks to carry forward the essence of Elijah's ministry, his courage, conviction, character, and calling. When Elijah is taken up in a whirlwind, Elisha picks up his cloak, the literal mantle, and steps into the Jordan.

He cries, *“Where now is the Lord, the God of Elijah?”*, strikes the water and the river parts. (2 Kings 2:14)

The God of Elijah is with Elisha, too.

The legacy has been passed on; not in name only, but in spirit and power.

In this moment, we see what it means to leave a legacy: it's not about buildings or titles or programs. It's about lives transformed.

It's about the Spirit of God continuing to work through the next faithful person, the next disciple who picks up the cloak and carries on. Wayne has carried the mantle faithfully here in Berkeley. He has walked with this community, wept with it, prayed over it, preached to it, and loved it deeply.

And now BJ and Samantha stand beside the Jordan.

We pray not only that they will follow Wayne, but that they will carry the same Spirit of Christ that Wayne has lived, taught, and shared among us.

Jesus wins!

The God who sustained Wayne is the same God who now goes with BJ and Samantha.

After Elijah's departure, the question lingered in the air: "Is God still here?" The parted waters gave the answer. God had not left. He was as present and powerful as ever.

So too in Berkeley, when rhythms shift and beloved voices grow quiet, we ask, "*Is God still here?*" And again, the answer comes, not in the silence, but in the Spirit: yes.

God remains.

The same Spirit hovers over Berkeley still, waiting for the next prayer, the next step of faith, the next whispered conversation that carries gospel hope. And the invitation is not just for one person. It's for all of us.

Each of us is called to live in such a way that others encounter Jesus through us and are prepared to carry on the work when our time comes. That is the legacy of faithful ministry. That is the legacy Wayne leaves. And that is the legacy we are each invited to continue.

II. A Life Poured Out – 2 Timothy 4:6–8

The apostle Paul, writing near the end of his life, reflects not with fear or regret, but with clarity and peace.

In (2 Timothy 4:6–8), he offers these moving words:

*"For I am already being poured out like a drink offering,
and the time for my departure is near.*

I have fought the good fight,

I have finished the race,

I have kept the faith."

What a powerful image!

A life entirely offered up, poured out in love and obedience to Christ. There is no bitterness in Paul's voice, only gratitude. He does not regret the cost; he rejoices in the faith he has kept and the crown that awaits.

Wayne, your time in this place has been just that, a drink offering.

You have poured yourself out in teaching and listening, in compassion and conviction, in humility, in wisdom, in quiet persistence and patient shepherding. Not perfectly, because none of us walk this road without stumbling, but faithfully, and with grace.

And the gift you leave us is not only what you have done, but who you have been among us: a living example of a life spent on others because Christ first spent himself on you.

Now, like Paul, you entrust this next leg of the race to others; to BJ and Samantha, and to this whole community you've helped shape. Because legacies are not just echoes of the past, they are seeds for the future. They don't end with the closing of a chapter; they carry forward in the lives and faith of those who remain.

Paul's faithfulness gave Timothy courage. Elijah's mantle gave Elisha direction.

And your ministry, Wayne, becomes the ground from which others will grow and build and serve. It's not about others recreating your footsteps. It's about inspiring others to walk their own faithful path in the same direction: toward Jesus.

Paul's image of the race is a relay and in just one verse, he hints at four generations of faithful witnesses.

That raises a question for us: *Who are you training?* What Scripture will someone remember because you kept repeating it with love and hope? Who will one day say, "I first understood grace because you openly lived it out". Who will rise because you first bent down to serve? Wayne's real legacy won't be found on a plaque or in a program. It will be seen in the slow, steady ripple of Jesus-shaped lives flowing out into Berkeley and beyond.

And what do those lives look like?

- Like sharing a prayer.
- Bringing a meal.
- Helping someone.
- Caring for those who are struggling.

They are simple acts, but they are holy echoes, seeds of gospel love that carry the aroma of Christ into corners where sermons may never reach. This is the legacy of a poured-out life. And it doesn't end when a leader moves on. It multiplies. So, we give thanks for Wayne's faithful offering. May we take up the baton with courage.

And may we each live lives that one day, like Paul's life remind us,

"I have fought the good fight, I have finished the race, I have kept the faith." (2 Timothy 4:7)

Not for our own glory.

But so that others may see the way to Christ and follow because 'Jesus wins'.

III. Fruit That Remains – John 15:12–17

In the Gospel of John, Jesus speaks to his disciples just before his own departure.

And what does he say?

"This is my command: Love one another as I have loved you." (John 15:12)

And then,

"You did not choose me, but I chose you and appointed you so that you might go and bear fruit, fruit that will last." (John 15:16).

This is legacy: love that multiplies, fruit that remains.

Wayne, you have loved this community as Christ loves you.

Through good days and hard days, in laughter and tears, you have been a witness to Jesus' way of love. You have cultivated fruit that will last, not always seen in the moment, but already taking root in hearts and homes and lives here in Berkeley.

BJ and Samantha, you are called now to water those seeds, to tend this garden, and to continue bearing fruit.

Not as a replica of Wayne, but as the unique servant-leaders God has made you to be.

And all of us are called to live so that others, seeing our lives, are drawn to the love of Christ.

That is the legacy of the Church: that in every generation, the love of Jesus is made known by the people who carry his name. Too often, we think legacy is about the great and grand. But the kingdom of God does not advance on headlines or platforms. It grows in the quiet faithfulness of people who show up, who listen, who pray, who forgive, who stay, who serve.

In (1 Corinthians 3:6), Paul writes:

"I planted the seed, Apollos watered it, but God has been making it grow."

Wayne has planted and watered. BJ and Samantha will now water and plant anew.

But it is God who gives the growth. It is Christ who bears the fruit. And it is the Spirit who empowers the legacy.

Conclusion: The Legacy We All Leave

So, what does this mean for Berkeley, now that Wayne has gone? It means we remember and give thanks, but we do not cling. Because legacy is not meant to be

tradition; it is meant to be multiplied. It means we support BJ and Samantha, not by expecting them to be Wayne, but by walking beside them as they, too, walk with Jesus.

In the words of (Hebrews 12:1):

“Therefore, since we are surrounded by such a great cloud of witnesses, let us throw off everything that hinders... and run with perseverance the race marked out for us.”

Wayne, you have run your race well. You have left a trail for others to follow.

And now, as you go, your legacy is alive, not just in memory, but in mission.

(1 Timothy 6:12) urges us:

“Fight the good fight of the faith

Take hold of the eternal life to which you were called when you made your good confession in the presence of many witnesses”.

Fighting the good fight isn't about winning quickly or easily.

It's about staying in the ring for all 15 rounds, even when the wrestle of your life gets hard. It's about keeping your guard up through the weariness, holding the line when others might fall back, and rising again, day after day, with faith in Christ as your strength.

That's the kind of fight Wayne has fought: long, faithful, and grounded in the hope of eternal life. And now, we are called to step into that same ring, trusting that the God who sustained him will also sustain us.

Mary and Wayne may the Lord bless you and keep you, and may your faithful witness continue as you love and serve.

And may we all take up the mantle to love as Christ loved, to serve as Christ served, and to live so that others will carry Christ's light long after we are gone.

That is our mission, in partnership, that we have committed to, together.

And every day, Jesus wins!

Amen.