

Sermon 5- 13, 2018 Faith of Our Mothers II Timothy 1:1-5; 3:12-17

Dear Mothers and children of Mothers:

Consider the influence of mothers...

The following quotes remind us of a mother's influence:

- The mother's heart is the child's schoolroom. - Henry Ward Beecher
- All that I am or ever hope to be, I owe to my angel Mother - Abraham Lincoln
- I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from my mother. - George Washington
- As a mother, my job is to take care of what is possible and trust God with the impossible. – Ruth Bell Graham

One of the Apostle Paul's co-workers, Timothy, had both his mother and grandmother mentioned in the New Testament.

Who was Timothy?

- The Apostle Paul's son, by faith, his spiritual son
- Timothy grew up in Lystra a city located in what is now the nation of Turkey
- Timothy was Paul's disciple, friend and fellow missionary
- Paul mentions Timothy often in the New Testament
- Timothy was sent by Paul to help out different churches and became the pastor of the church in Ephesus

Eunice and Lois

Who was important in the development of Timothy's faith?

1st God calls people to faith by His Word

2nd God uses people to bring His Word to others to create faith

With Timothy, God used Paul but before Paul came into Timothy's life two women taught Timothy God's Word.

- His mother – Eunice
- His grandmother – Lois

These women were devout Jews who became believers in Jesus.

- II Timothy 1:5
- II Timothy 3:15

On this Mother's Day may we consider the influence of Mother's

The Faith of Our Mothers

I. A Mother's Faith Is Convictional

This letter, II Timothy, was Paul's last letter he wrote before he died.

- Paul is in a cold dungeon awaiting his execution for his faith
- As he waits he writes this letter to his dear friend, Timothy about 66 AD

Note what is on Paul's heart as he awaits execution vv3-5...

- he thanks God whom he serves
- he prays for Timothy and his welfare
- he desires to see Timothy again and remembers the last time they saw each other when he visited Ephesus
- he remembers the tears they shed as they departed one another

v5 Paul now speaks about Timothy's mother and grandmother

A faith which is Scripturally Sound

Paul speaks as if he knew Lois and Eunice personally, which he probably did. They were OT Jewish believers and became believers in Jesus – the Messiah of the OT

* they heard the Gospel from Paul Acts 16:1

* they communicated their faith to Timothy

* they knew God's Word from the OT

Romans 10:17

II Timothy 2:15

In order to know God's Word we must spend time with God's Word.

Our families are fertile fields for planting gospel seeds.

Where do we start with the Gospel...

- with our parents
- with our children
- with our spouses
- with our siblings

It is a faith which is Savingly Sure

With Lois and Eunice understanding of the OT Paul could point them to Jesus – the One predicted in the OT as the Savior – God who would take our sins away. Knowing the Bible helps in understanding the Gospel.

Do our children know the Bible?

Do they know who...

- Adam and Eve are
- Abraham, Isaac and Jacob
- Noah and the flood
- David and Solomon
- The Apostles

Lois and Eunice set the table for Timothy's faith.

- They taught him God's Word
- The seed of the Savior had been planted by them
- Paul brought that seed to harvest in teaching Timothy about Jesus
- Timothy's education in the Bible began as a small child 3:15

Teaching small children is both an opportunity and a responsibility.

* Jesus wants little children to come to him Matthew 19:13-15

How does a nation become great?

- When children are taught God's Word - ie Scotland
- An African chief wanted to know the secret of Great Britain's greatness. Queen Victoria, holding a Bible in her hand, said, "Tell the chief that this book, the Bible, is the secret of our greatness."

II. A Mother's Faith Is Communicable

It is the mother who makes the deepest impression on a young child.

Faith Is Communicated by Personal Education

II Timothy 3:14 From his earliest days, Timothy was taught God's Word
God commands us to do so.

- Deut 4:9-10
- Deut 6:6ff

- Deut 11:18-21
- Prov 6:20-21
- Prov 7:1-3
- Prov 22:6

Timothy had a great deal of pressure in his life as a young pastor. He could have easily abandoned his faith with all of the stress of life. But Paul counsels Timothy to look to his past – to hold to the basic teachings about Jesus that were first taught him.

Faith Is Communicated by Practical Demonstration

Timothy has seen the daily lives of his mother and grandmother when a young child.

Eunice and Lois lived out their faith in their daily lives.

One Christian author I have read says his family had devotions around the supper table every day but it was not the devotions that he remembers having an impact upon him.

What had the greatest impact upon him as a child was seeing his father and mother praying. The greatest impact was seeing his mother finishing her prayers with tears in her eyes.

- Ephesians 6:4
- Colossians 3:21

John Newton could never forget his mother at whose knees he had learned to pray, but who was taken to heaven when he was only 8 years old. “My mother’s God, the God of mercy, have mercy upon me!” was often his prayer when in danger or in trouble. That prayer was answered by God not only in Newton’s life, but also in his ministry.

John and Charles Wesley, the founders of Methodism, saw the faith of their mother, Susannah, lived out everyday and it impressed them so much that Susannah has often been called “The Mother of Methodism.”

III. A Mother’s Faith Is Commendable

Lasting Influence of a Mother’s Faith

What is the most priceless treasure a man or woman can have?

When God looks at us, what is most important to Him?

- how many things we have
- how much money we have

The world may cry “What is a man without money?” but the Christian replies, “What is a man without faith?”

The great men and women of the OT were all remembered for one thing.... See Hebrews 11

- By faith...Abel
- By faith...Enoch
- By faith...Sara
- By faith...Rahab

Luke 12:15

Mark 8:36

The Living Relevance of a Mother's Faith

Times may change and fashions may alter, but mothers are never out of date. A mother's faith is a living relevance.

* Mothers adapt themselves everyday to the needs of their children

* A space-age mothers needs to keep her feet on the ground and her heart in the heavens.

William McKinley was President of the United States in the late 1890's.

- As president, he kept in touch with his mother every day
- Either he visited her, or wrote a letter or telegraphed her
- Sometimes he would take the train to visit her in Ohio on Sunday so he could walk to church with her
- When she became ill he arranged a special train standing by at full steam ready to take him from Washington to Ohio so he could be at her bedside at a moments notice
- When his mother did die, he was there at her side

Four years after the death of his mother, President McKinley was assassinated as president in Buffalo, New York in 1901. As President McKinley lay dying of his wounds he prayed “God's will be done.” Before he died, he asked to hear

once again the hymn his mother had taught him which was “Nearer, My God, to Thee.”

It was said that McKinley’s mother with her gentle Christian virtues had helped mold the President’s character so that he showed no bitterness toward his assassin.

What is the greatest tool for a mother to use in raising a child?Vv16-17

“All Scripture is breathed out by God.”

Scripture provides what we need...

- truth for life
- rebuke for wrong behavior or belief
- correction – helping back to their feet those who have stumbled
- instruction in righteousness

The Bible is Inspired and Trustworthy!

May we read and apply it and raise our children in it!

It is...

- Our source for living
- Our source for salvation
- Our source for parenting
- Our source for doing good

God bless our families.....

God bless our Mothers...

Happy Mother’s Day!