

Sunday, May 9, 2021

Title: Sincere Faith from Grandmother and Mother

Text: 2 Timothy 1:1 - 14

Purpose: I want to MOTIVATED my congregation to celebrate and honor the godly women in our fellowship and in our own personal lives.

1 Timothy 4:13, *“Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to exhortation, to teaching.”*

Introduction:

Review of last Sunday’s devotional:
Guide Posts Along “the WAY”

1. Guide Post Marked LOVE, John 13:34 - 35
2. Guide Post Marked SERVICE, Mark 9:34 - 35
3. Guide Post Marked PERSONAL GROWTH, 2 Timothy 2:15 - 21
4. Guide Post Marked INVESTMENT, Matthew 28:18 - 20

- Each Christian’s faith journey is unique; we each have our own road to walk. My journey to Christ was different from Lyn’s, and ours was different from yours.
- But we all had at least two things in common: key influencers who had input into our life and receiving the same Savior.
- For Timothy it was his grandmother (mamma) Lois (agreeable) and his mother (meter) Eunice (good victory); in Acts 16:1 we are introduced to Timothy and told that his mother was a believer and that his father was a Greek. Beyond that we know nothing of his father, he is not mentioned in Paul’s letter to Timothy.
- Timothy as a young man had a special relationship with Paul, to the extent that Paul refers to Timothy in verse 2 as “my beloved child.”

1. Sincere Faith of Lois and Eunice:

vs. 5, *“I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure dwells in you as well.”*

1.1) Sincere Faith!

- Meaning of the Greek word is: unfeigned, undisguised, sincere, without hypocrisy.
- Acts 16:1 - 3, vs.1 *“Paul came also to Derbe and to Lystra. A disciple was there, named Timothy, the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek.”*

1.2) The Challenges That Eunice Faced:

- There is no mention of Timothy’s father; in the absence of Scripture we cannot be dogmatic about our speculations regarding the father: was he deceased; was he absent for whatever reasons; was he present but unsupportive of a faith walk with Jesus Christ.
- Whatever the rest of the story was it is reasonable to conclude that Eunice to some extent was a single mother facing both cultural and economic challenges.

- But in the midst of her situation she modelled “sincere faith.”

1.3) The Challenges That Lois Faced:

- It is possible that Lois lived with Eunice and Timothy. If Eunice was a working mother Lois may have had a key role in being a caregiver to Timothy and encourager for Eunice.

- It is evident that she also modelled “sincere faith.”

2. Sincere Faith Based in The Word:

2 Timothy 3:14 - 17, *“But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus. All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be complete, equipped for every good work.”*

2.1) It is most unlikely that Timothy learned Scripture in a synagogue as he was of a mixed race and was not circumcised (Acts 16:1 - 5).

2.2) It is reasonable to deduce that his Scriptural awareness came from Lois and Eunice. This is profound when we consider that by the Jewish culture of the time, women, were not given the same training as males. Yet both Lois and Eunice had come to saving faith, and Timothy following their sincere faith also was a “believer.” Acts 16:1

2.3) These two amazing women modelled “sincere faith” in a hostile cultural environment, both Jewish and gentile!

3. Sincere Faith Enriched by Paul:

3.1) Paul enters Timothy’s life and complements the “sincere faith” of Lois and Eunice with a “fatherly” example.

- 2 Timothy 1:2, *“To Timothy, my beloved child. Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.”*

3.2) Consider how Paul added to the “sincere faith” modelled by Lois and Eunice:

- 2 Timothy 3:10 - 11, *“You, however, have followed my teaching, my conduct, my aim in life, my faith, my patience, my love, my steadfastness, my persecutions and suffering that happened to me at Antioch, at Iconium, and at Lystra - which persecutions I endured, yet from them all the Lord rescued me.”*

4. Sincere Faith Enriched Through Gifting:

4.1) 2 Timothy 1:6 - 7, *“For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.”*

4.2) Ephesians 1:3 - 4, *“Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly places, even as he chose us in him before the foundation of the world, that we should be holy and blameless before him.”*

Conclusion:

Prayer of thanksgiving and dedication!