

Eunice and Timothy II Tim. 1:3-5

Thesis: To encourage women to be godly mothers by noticing the results of a godly mother.

Introduction:

When I would go to the hospital to see Carolyne Haywood, many nurses and doctors assumed that I was her son.

I was honored by their thoughts.

This must be what Jesus had in mind in Mark 10.

Mk. 10:28-30 - Then Peter began to say to Him, "See, we have left all and followed You." {29} So Jesus answered and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, there is no one who has left house or brothers or sisters or father or mother or wife or children or lands, for My sake and the gospel's, {30} who shall not receive a hundredfold now in this time-- houses and brothers and sisters and *mothers* and children and lands, with persecutions-- and in the age to come, eternal life."

This is the way that I feel about many who are here (however, do not expect gifts).

The name of Eunice is only mentioned one time in the entire Bible (**II Tim. 1:5**). She is referred to on one other occasion (**Acts 16:1**). However, we can learn great things because of what we know about her; especially when we consider the great things that we know about Timothy.

I. Eunice set a godly example for Timothy.

A. When we are introduced to Eunice, we are told that she was a "Jewish woman who believed" (**Acts 16:1**).

1. Nothing more is said of her in Acts 16, only that she believed.
2. It is also interesting to note that Paul knew that Timothy had a strong faith because Eunice had a strong faith (**1:5**).
3. It is also interesting to note that Lois (Timothy's grandmother) had a strong faith that she passed down to Eunice.
4. Eunice set a godly example for Timothy to follow; and it was because of that example that Timothy know how to serve and love God.

B. Each of us are commanded to set a godly example.

1. We know the importance of following good examples.
 - a. **Phil. 3:17** - Brethren, join in following my example, and note those who so walk, as you have us for a pattern.
 - b. **Phil. 4:9** - The things which you learned and received and heard and saw in me, these do, and the God of peace will be with you.
 - c. **I Cor. 11:1** - Imitate me, just as I also imitate Christ.
2. We also need to understand the importance of setting a godly example.

- a. The basics of Christianity is living a godly life that is different from that of the world.
 - 1) **I Pet. 1:15-16** - but as He who called you is holy, you also be holy in all your conduct, {16} because it is written, “Be holy, for I am holy.”
 - 2) **I Pet. 2:11-12** - Beloved, I beg you as sojourners and pilgrims, abstain from fleshly lusts which war against the soul, {12} having your conduct honorable among the Gentiles, that when they speak against you as evildoers, they may, by your good works which they observe, glorify God in the day of visitation.
 - 3) **Rom. 12:1-2** - I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. {2} And do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God.
- b. **Mt. 5:16** - Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.
- c. We can only set the proper example for others when we conform ourselves to the will of God.
- 3. It is especially important for parents to set the proper example.
 - a. It is during the first few years of a child’s life that they are the most impressionable.
 - b. They learn about morals and how to make the proper decisions.
 - c. Most importantly, they learn how important God is to their parents; and they will most likely follow that example.
 - 1) If parents are constantly putting God first, they will teach the child to put God first.
 - 2) When parents set the example of prayer for their children, they learn to pray.
 - 3) If the parents constantly forsake the assembly of the church, then the children will learn that God is not that important.
 - d. **Pr. 22:6** - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.

II. Eunice gave Timothy a strong foundation in the scriptures.

A. Eunice taught Timothy the Holy Scriptures from his childhood (3:14-15).

- 1. We know that Eunice believed and set the proper example for Timothy.
- 2. It is also good to note that she taught Timothy the word of God from an early age.

B. The majority of Bible teaching should take place in the home at an early age.

1. We have talked of this before; and because of the importance of it, we will talk about it again.
 - a. It is true that throughout the Bible, the fathers are instructed to be the spiritual leaders in the home.
 - b. However, both parents have a responsibility to train their children in the ways of God.
2. Parents should begin teaching their children the word of God from an early age.
 - a. God commanded Israel to teach their children the ways of the Lord.
 - 1) **Deut. 4:9-10** - Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren, {10} especially concerning the day you stood before the LORD your God in Horeb, when the LORD said to me, "Gather the people to Me, and I will let them hear My words, that they may learn to fear Me all the days they live on the earth, and that they may teach their children."
 - 2) **Deut. 6:6-7** - And these words which I command you today shall be in your heart. {7} You shall teach them diligently to your children, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
 - 3) **Deut. 11:19** - You shall teach them to your children, speaking of them when you sit in your house, when you walk by the way, when you lie down, and when you rise up.
 - b. Today, we need to teach our children the word of God.
 - 1) **Eph. 6:4** - And you, fathers, do not provoke your children to wrath, but bring them up in the training and admonition of the Lord.
 - 2) **Titus 2:4-5** - that they admonish the young women to love their husbands, to love their children, {5} to be discreet, chaste, homemakers, good, obedient to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be blasphemed.
 - 3) **I Tim. 5:14** - Therefore I desire that the younger widows marry, bear children, manage the house, give no opportunity to the adversary to speak reproachfully.
3. When parents teach their children the word of God in the home, it gives them the proper example to follow.
 - a. If we had parents that taught us the word of God in our homes, we can be thankful.
 - b. We must begin now teaching our children the word of God.

III. We can see the results of the faithfulness of Eunice.

A. It is easy to see that Timothy was faithful because of his mother Eunice.

1. Acts 16:1-5 – The churches were strengthened because of Timothy.
2. Timothy was faithful.
 - a. I Tim. 2:8-15 – Paul gives Timothy instructions concerning the role of men and women in the church.
 - b. I Tim. 3:1-13 – Paul gives Timothy instructions concerning the leadership in the church.
 - c. The point is that because of the faithfulness of Timothy, Paul could give him these important instructions concerning the church.
3. Throughout I and II Timothy, Timothy is encouraged to continue doing the work that God would have him to do.
4. Throughout the writings and work of Paul, we see the good that Timothy did and the encouragement that Timothy was for him.

B. Today, when we think of the results of our faithfulness on others (and especially our children), it gives us the encouragement to continue in our faithfulness.

1. It is easy for discouragement to set in when we do not see the fruits of our labors.
 - a. This can be especially true when it comes to parenting.
 - b. When we do our best to teach our child the word of God and set the proper example for him, yet they refuse to follow after God, it can be very discouraging.
 - c. Remember Pr. 22:6 - Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old he will not depart from it.
 - 1) The proverb is about what will happen to the child “when he is old.”
 - 2) The idea is that when the parent trains and teaches the child properly, they will eventually (in most cases) follow that truth.
 - 3) It may not happen immediately, but it will most likely happen.
2. It is the duty of the parents to set the proper example and give their child a good foundation in the word of God.
 - a. In most cases, the faith of the parent will eventually become the faith of the child, just like the example of Timothy.
 - b. If the parent does not give the child the proper foundation, then when he is old, he (most likely) will not be faithful to the church.

Conclusion: