

Mother's Day 2012
2 Timothy 2:1-6, Acts 16:1

On this Sunday we begin a new sermon series that will seek to share some principles that pertain to family relationships and purposes. So we kick off this series on Mother's Day and we'll conclude it on June 17th on Father's Day. So I encourage you to bring a guest to worship that could benefit from hearing biblical principles relevant to family relationships and issues. We will have one Sunday, June 3 when we will step away from our focus because Carrie Smith will be sharing about her upcoming mission trip to Romania.

Introduction: A little boy forgot his lines in a Sunday school presentation. His mother was in the front row to prompt him. She gestured and formed the words silently with her lips, but it did not help. Her son's memory was blank. Finally, she leaned forward and whispered the cue, "I am the light of the world." The child beamed and with great feeling and a loud clear voice said, "My mother is the light of the world!" (Stephen Shepherd, sermon central.com)

This morning we use the occasion of Mother's Day to remind women to strive to be the light of Christ, live godly and make a impact for Jesus Christ; especially in your families.

The Apostle Paul once wrote about two women whose faith were a light to the young man Paul wrote how their faith could be an example by which others should imitate. Let's stand and hear his words this morning.

Read 2 Timothy 1:1-6

Strive for a faith that was memorable - "first lived in your grandmother Lois then in your mother Eunice..."

The Apostle Paul's reason for writing Timothy was to give a young minister encouragement. Some scholars assume that Timothy was facing much discouragement in ministry. As Paul sought to encourage Timothy, he pointed out the memorable faith of Timothy's grandmother and mother. Paul was not a man to easily flatter anyone. In order for Paul to take the trouble to compliment the faith of Lois and Eunice it was because they had a faith in Jesus Christ that was distinct, it stood out.

Ladies it is critical for your life to be lived as a follower of Jesus not only for your sake; but so others may see Christ through you. Others may see Christ through you even when you don't realize they are watching.

Illustration: A woman by the name of Jean Baron once wrote in Readers Digest about the old mobile home where she lived with her teenage son. She said, "The home was structurally unsound, and the plumbing always leaked." She was ashamed when her son brought friends home because of their meager surroundings.

But one day she learned that her son's best friend, who had all the material things anyone could want, had run away from home. She said, "I was puzzled, so I asked my son why?"

He explained, "Well, mom, at their house they had a lot of environment but not very much love. Here, we have lots of love, but not very much environment." (Stephen Shepherd, sermon central.com)

People are searching for the love of God but the problem is sometimes we search in the wrong people and places. Paul wrote Timothy and said he remembered the tears Timothy had cried. Timothy could have been going through a time of searching; but whatever the struggle, Paul pointed Timothy to the distinct and memorable faith of his mother and grandmother to encourage

Timothy.

You don't have to have great wealth or be a "p.h.d." but you can make an impact if your faith is such that the love of Jesus Christ can be seen. Strive for a faith that is memorable, that others can remember when they are searching and hungry for inspiration.

Live for a faith that lives on - "I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that first lived on in your grandmother Lois, and your mother Eunice and now I am sure lives in you...."

v.5

Women like Lois and Eunice had a faith that out lived them.

Today

is a day when scripture such as this should cause women to pause and examine your relationship to Jesus Christ and ask is your life living for Christ in such a way that what you do and stand for today can live on into the future to strengthen children and others?

Pastor Howard Henricks once said, **"If your faith doesn't work at home – then it doesn't work.** (Brian Spence, Sermoncentral.com)

One preacher by the name of Jeff Strite wrote about the need for mothers to have a faith that lives on in influencing our children and others. Let me share his words and then move onto the final point in the message. **Pastor Strite writes,**

Illustration: I recently read the story about a mother and son who stopped their car on a busy highway and watched with others as a mother duck led her ducklings safely across to the other side of the road.

But, then as the mother duck confidently continued up the street, she approached a gutter that led down to a sewer. The mother duck, seeing no problem with the gutter, walked right over its grated cover with her large, webbed feet.

She failed to realize her little ones were much smaller. Yet, the babies faithfully followed their mother, and one-by-one they fell in-between the cracks of the sewer grate. Plop ... plop ... plop. Everyone (in the car's) heart sank as they watched the mother duck boldly lead on thinking her babies were safely following in stride." ("Mother Duck, Lead On." Forward In Christ, May 2002: 20)

I believe it's possible for a mother to strive, and strain and struggle to lead her child to safety on the other side of life's road, and ultimately fail to accomplish her goal. It's possible for her to make sure her son/ daughter are successful in:

- School
- Or Sports
- Or career
- Or marriage

And still, fail to give their sons and daughters the most important direction they can have in life.

To paraphrase Mark 8:36...

"What shall it profit a mother if her son/ daughter shall gain the whole world, and then lose their souls?"

My point is... it's possible to love your child so much that you want them to have THE BEST THAT THIS WORLD can offer... And fail to make sure they have the best that GOD can offer.

The true tragedy would be - for our children to have bookcases loaded with awards and trophies. Walls lined with diplomas and certificates of achievement... But to have hearts practically empty of God... and faith. (Jeff Strite, sermoncentral.com)

Have a faith that demands a response – “rekindle the gift”

We close with seeing what Paul does with remembering the faith of these women. He used it to instruct Timothy to **“rekindle his spiritual gifts.”** In other words Paul was trying to say to Timothy if the fire of passion and faith for Christ that once burned needs intensifying, if the coals need to be stirred to get that fire for God burning brightly again, **then remember the faith of your mother and grandmother.** Paul must have had some concern that Timothy’s faith was not burning as bright as it needed to be. Maybe he was warning Timothy in advance.

I think it was a word of challenge to Timothy by using the memorable faith of these mothers.

Illustration.- Don DeWalt writes about one of his college professors at Ozark Christian College. Don preached a sermon entitled, “The only commandment the virgin Mary ever gave.” He was referring to the time when Jesus and Mary attended a wedding that ran out of wine. Mary prompted Jesus to help. And she said to the servers over seeing the wine, **“DO WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU.”** It’s the only commandment we know that Mary the mother of Jesus ever spoke. Pastor Stephen Shepherd adds, “What made this command better was that mother who gave the command set a good example in following the words of the Lord.” (Stephen Shepherd, sermoncentral.com)

The Apostle Paul was pointing to the faith of Lois and Eunice to challenge Timothy, “Do whatever Jesus tells you, or “Do whatever God’s written word teaches.”

Ladies on this day strive to live in such a way your faithful relationship as Christian can challenge and help rekindle the faith of those your life touches.

Illustration.- It is said that when preacher John Wesley was a student at Oxford University, he was shocked by the amount of

drinking done by the students. After writing to his mother, Susanna Wesley, for her advice, he received the following words from her: "My dear son: remember that anything which increases the authority of the body over the mind is an evil thing." IBID

This is a Sunday for both challenge and gratitude. Challenge that ladies live for Christ and his calling on your life. Gratitude from all of us to give thanks for the memorable faith of the mothers of our lives. Amen