

Wil Owens  
Calling All Mothers; 2 Timothy 1:3-7  
GPBC  
5.8.22

Introduction – Mother’s Day celebrates motherhood. God, in His wise and good design, has given mothers a special place in our lives and therefore, in the world. There is no other place in all of humanity quite as special, unique, and influential as the place we hold in our hearts for caring, loving mothers. There is no greater task that requires more energy and patience than the labor of love that being a mom involves. It is a gift to be a mother, and it is a gift to have a loving, faithful mother. So we do well today to remember all the precious mothers who are now with the Lord and to honor those still with us today.

All of us men here today, we love our mothers but I have heard one complaint through the years. It goes something like this: On Father’s Day the preacher always corrects us and on Mother’s Day the preacher always celebrates mothers. We hear how much we need to improve and the ladies hear how well they’re doing. And all the ladies said, “Amen. That’s how it should be!”

The main emphasis of the sermon today is not celebration or correction so I’m probably not going to be on anyone’s good side. My prayer is that our study of some passages today in 2 Timothy will call all mothers to rise to the challenge of biblical motherhood in our day. Given our current cultural climate, where wrong is celebrated and right is chastised, where evil is excused and good is scorned, where deception is accepted and truth is scandalized, the calling to be a godly mother is as great as its ever been. Raising children in an increasingly post-Christian society leaves no room for a casual, comfortable western version of Christianity. We as parents must be vigilant in our faith and thoroughly biblical in our view of life and salvation and parenting. And so the sermon today is calling all mothers.

- I. The Most Important Legacy to Leave
  - a. Paul writes that the kind of faith he observes in Timothy, He first observed it in his grandmother Lois, then in his mother Eunice, and finally in Timothy as well.
  - b. The faith had been passed down from generation to generation. Not that we can pass down our faith. I can’t give my children the faith

that I have. Only Jesus can save our children. But evidently there is something that we can do that paves the way to pass down the faith. Evidently Lois and Eunice did because their faith was replicated for two generations. What would that be?

- c. Moms and Dads, we can live out the faith before our children in a winsome, compelling way.
  - i. Can our children tell by the way we live that Jesus is our greatest treasure? Do they hear Jesus in the way we talk about others, in the way we talk to our spouse, in the way we talk to them? Do they see Jesus living in us by how we relate to those who love us and those who mistreat us? Or does it seem to our children that our greatest treasure is our income? Or the accomplishments of our children? What do our lives communicate to our children about Christ and faith in Him? Are we showing our children that faith is little more than the occasional church attendance when nothing else is happening and keeping your reputation in tact? Or are we showing our children that faith in Christ impacts every corner of our lives?
  - ii. When we face difficulties in life, are we showing our children that we turn to Jesus first and foremost to meet our need? That we can trust God's promises and His character? That His grace is sufficient? Or are we teaching our kids by our example to hide from their problems, to push people away, to medicate their problems away? Or to retaliate rather than forgive? Or to blame God for the storm rather than cling to Him?
  - iii. You see when Jesus' strength is enough for hard times and He is still our joy in the good times, that's when our faith is real! And this generation, and every generation, is looking for something that's real! When Jesus is our treasure we show our kids a sincere faith that is winsome and compelling.
- d. Notice Paul described this faith as a sincere faith. Not a phony faith, or shallow faith, or false faith, but a sincere faith. A sincere faith is one that can be seen. (James 2:17-18) A sincere faith is one that has been tested and keeps believing through the trial and after the trial. (Paul says in Romans 5 we rejoice in our sufferings because ultimately they produce hope.) And actually on the other end is more

vibrant than ever before. A sincere faith is the only faith that truly saves.

- e. III. Mom speaking of heaven
- II. The Most Important Lesson to Teach
- a. 3:14-15. Paul urges Timothy to continue in what he has learned – so there is a history of teachers in Timothy’s life; Paul, Lois, and Eunice. But notice what he says in v15 – how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings – the Scriptures.
    - i. In other words, since Timothy was old enough to understand language, Lois and Eunice were teaching him scriptural truth. Before Paul was Timothy’s spiritual father, he had a mother and grandmother who acquainted him with the Scripture. They must have read the Scripture, told him the Bible stories of God’s greatness and glory and grace. Taught him what the books were and where to find key verses of promise and truth. The Bible was given priority to his life.
    - ii. Moms, devotion to Scripture is the most important lesson we can teach our children. We do that by example; we devote ourselves to Scripture. We do that by application; we apply specific verses to specific situations in their lives.
    - iii. It’s not enough to tell our children, “The Bible says...” We need to be able to show them the verse and then tell them why the Bible addresses this issue in this way. We need to be able to show them the verses that speak of God’s grace and love and power and promises and teach them that if they are in Christ, every word and every promise of God is theirs!
  - b. Why is devotion to Scripture the most important lesson we can teach? Paul writes that knowing the Scripture makes them “able to be wise for salvation.” You see when we are devoted to the most important lesson, we encounter the most important truth – salvation. Our kids’ education, number of friends, extra-curricular activities, degrees, future jobs, life skills, and amount of income are all important – but all pale in comparison to this one thing – have they been born again and reconciled to God.
  - c. But notice the most important lesson of devotion to Scripture brought him to the most important truth of salvation by introducing him to the most important person – the Lord Jesus Christ!

- d. Sons and daughters in love with Jesus is our first and foremost priority and calling. And its got to be the Jesus of Scripture if it is to be the Jesus of salvation!
  - e. If you remember I challenged our dads a few weeks back by saying if we teach our sons to keep their eye on the ball and don't teach our sons to keep their eye of Jesus, we have failed as fathers. Moms, hear me well, I know you want to teach your girls how to be ladies, but by far we must teach them how to be women of God who love Jesus with all their heart!
  - f. Listen young ladies – middle school, high school, and single ladies – you don't need a boyfriend as much as you need Jesus. Fall in love with Jesus and make Him the number one man in your life, and in His timing, He'll bring you to a young man who loves Jesus with all his heart – and you'll have the best relationship and marriage that you could have ever dreamed.
- III. The Most Important Time is Now
- a. Whatever the age of your children, now is the time to begin imparting the most important legacy and lesson. It's more urgent now than ever before.
  - b. 4:3-4. That time that Paul warned Timothy is coming has now arrived. Everywhere our children go they are exposed to the world's view of life, salvation, God, sexuality, marriage. Every form of media and entertainment, the culture and the classroom at college and now school, actors, influencers, commercials, their peers – the ocean our children swim in every day is a world where people only want to hear what they want to hear. Approval and applause for whatever they want to do.
  - c. For someone to grow up in this world and love Jesus and anchor their life in truth, it has to begin in the home and it has to be alive in the church.

Conclusion – I've always heard and I've seen it true in others and I've experienced in my own life – there is no greater power in prayer than a praying mother. Moms we need your prayers now more than ever.