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The Women Lois And Eunice

The impact made on a child in the home can often make the difference, weather they are going to walk with God or not.

1. The perspective and example that is provided for them by the parents is vital for their decision making in life, even though some choose not to walk with God.
2. The child at the age of knowledge or later has the responsibility to make a choice to be saved.

So we want to look at Lois and Eunice, two women who impacted a child in such a way that he is one of the greatest figures in the New Testament, Timothy.

We want to study both of these women from three perspectives.

- I. The conversion of Lois and Eunice.
- II. The commitment of Lois and Eunice.
- III. The contentment of Lois and Eunice.

I. The conversion of Lois and Eunice.

- A. The two women are mentioned by name only once. 2Tim. 1:5
* “When I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your

grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also.”

1. Lois was Timothy’s grandmother.
 - a. Lois was the mother of Eunice.
 - b. Lois means “agreeable”.
 - c. Lois was Jewish according to the book of Acts. 16:1
 - d. Lois is mention by name only this time, but implied again in Second Timothy. 2Tim. 3:14-15
2. Eunice was the mother of Timothy.
 - a. Eunice was the daughter of Lois.
 - b. Eunice means “good victory”.
 - c. Eunice was also Jewish as her mother.
 - d. Eunice like her mother is mentioned only this time, but also implied as her mother again in Second Timothy. 2Tim. 3:14-15
- B. The two women without any doubt were converted in Paul’s first missionary journey as he came to Lystra. Acts 14:8-19
 1. The occasion is probably about five years before the second missionary journey when Paul went to south Galatia.
 2. The apostle Paul had been used by the Lord to heal a ma crippled from birth through a word of knowledge and wisdom. vs. 8-10
 3. The response of the people was shocking to Paul and Barnabas as they raised their voice in the Lycaonian language they said, “The gods have cone down to us in the likeness of

men”, calling Barnabas Zeus and Paul.”
Hermes because he was the chief speaker.
vs. 11-12

- a. The story of the gods Zeus and Hermes was told, who came down and no one was hospitable to them except one Philemon and his wife.
 - b. The result was that the gods wiped everyone out except both of them.
 - c. Both of them were made guardians of the temple and turned into two great trees when they died.
 - d. Zeus is the Roman name for the Greek god Jupiter and Hermes for Mercury.
4. The priest of Zeus not wanting the same thing to happen again preceded to make sacrifice to appease them. vs. 13-18
- a. The apostles in sharp contrast hearing that they tore their clothes, expressing grief over their perception. vs. 14
 - b. The apostles cried out that they were mere men with the same nature as they. vs. 15a-d
 - 1) Peter said the same thing to Cornelius. Acts 10:26
 - 2) The angel told John not to worship him but God, for he was his servant. Rev. 19:10; 22:8
 - c. They declared that they were preaching to them that they should turn from those vain things to the living God, who made

heaven, earth, the sea and all that is in them. vs. 15e-I; 1Thess. 1:10

* Paul relates to them on their level of understanding about God, nature!
Acts 17:30

- 1) Pantheism is the worship of God through everything, all is God.
 - 2) Polytheism the worship of many gods.
 - 3) Animism the worship of God through nature.
 - * But creation and conscience is not enough for salvation, it only makes a person inexcusable regarding the existence of God. Rom. 1:19-20
- d. They declared that in past generations God allowed all nations to walk in their own ways. vs. 16; Gal. 4:4
- e. They declared the same God did not leave himself without a witness in that He showed His goodness by doing good to all of man kind, providing rain, fruitful seasons, food and gladness. vs. 17
- f. They could scarcely be restrained from their pagan idolatry! vs. 18
5. The outcome was unpredictable. vs. 19-20
- a. The Jews from Antioch were so resentful and enraged at Paul for preaching the Gospel that they traveled 90 miles from Antioch to Iconium. vs. 19
 - 1) They persuaded the multitudes to stone Paul.

- 2) They dragged him out of the city, supposing he was dead. 2Cor. 12:1-6
- b. The disciples gathered around Paul's body. vs. 20
 - 1) He arose and went back into the city. vs. 20
 - 2) The next day he and Barnabas left to Derbe, about 20 miles south-east.
 - 3) The young man Timothy could of very well been present to witness this very stoning.
 - 4) The city was the frontier city of Galacia, near the home of Paul.
 - * Through the stoning of Stephen Paul was marked for salvation, through Paul's stoning at Lystra Timothy perhaps came to salvation.

C. The two women were residence of Lystra. Acts 16:1

- * The occasion is the apostle Paul's second missionary journey as he has come to Derbe and Lystra. vs. 1a
- a. The city was made a Roman colony by Augustus in B. C. 25.
- b. It was twenty miles south-west of Icomium.
- c. Antioch was about 110 or so miles connected by a military road.
- d. The city was a province of Galatia.

- e. The apostle Paul and Silas had come to deliver the decrees of the church council to free the gentiles from the rituals of the Law. Acts 16:4
- 4. Timothy is said to be a disciple. vs. 1b-c
 - a. The word disciple means a student of pupil.
 - b. The foundation was as a disciple of Judaism.
- 5. Timothy was the son of a Jewish woman, his mother Eunice who believed in the Lord Jesus. vs. 1d
 - * His name Timothy means "one who honors God".
- 6. Timothy is placed in contrast to his father who did not believe in Jesus.
 - a. He was the son of a mixed marriage.
 - b. His father was Greek and some point out the tense indicates his father was already dead.
- 7. Timothy's mother Eunice and her mother Lois compromise in their faith as Jewish women.
 - a. No Jew was to be married to a Gentile.
 - b. No Jew was to allow their sdaughter or son to begin a relation with a Gentile.
 - c. Weather Timothy's father was insincere in his commitment that resulted in the marriage, we do not know?
 - d. Or the presupposition he would believe after they were married, we do not know.

- e. The outcome was a divide home.

Illustration

It has been said, “He who provides for this life, but takes no care for eternity, is wise for a moment, but a fool forever”. #5393

Application

1. The majority of people are saved out of the world having lived in the world for a good number of years and their lives are filled with consequences of bad decisions and selfish living. Eph. 2:1-2
2. The people that are saved from within the church being children of saved parents can and do often compromise and have to live with the consequences of reaping and sowing to their fleshly choices. Gal. 6:7-8
3. The greatest compromise in the church is being unequally yoked with unbelievers throwing away their sexual purity or marrying a non-believer. 2Cor. 6:14-16
4. The gospel is the only thing that renews and restores a person from their sins and the destruction in their lives. 2Cor. 5:17

The conversion of Lois and Eunice was through the gospel!

II. The commitment of Lois and Eunice.

- A. The mother of Timothy, Eunice had been faithful to raise her son in the faith despite her compromise. Acts 16:2-3
1. Timothy was well spoken of by the brethren, those who knew and walked with God. vs. 2
 - a. Timothy’s witness was not limited to his own town, but to those who were at Lystra and Iconium.
 - 1) The woman Eunice had taught the Scriptures to her son Timothy from his youth. 2Tim. 3:15; Deut. 6:4-9, 11:19-20
 - 2) He had been committed enough to walk with God in the midst of the paganism, present even in his home.
 - 3) He had purpose in his heart as Daniel to not defile himself with the things of the world.
 - b. Timothy at this point had a good reputation as a Christians.
 2. Timothy in the eyes of Paul was the perfect young man to disciple in the ministry of the gospel. vs. 3
 - a. Paul wanted to take Timothy with him.
 - b. Paul took Timothy and circumcised him due to the Jews who knew his father was a Gentile.
 - * Paul always going to the Jews n their synagogues first knew the objections and trouble it would cause him to be heard.

- B.** The transmission of the faith by Lois and Eunice was the result of a godly heritage that now resided in Timothy. 2Tim. 1:5
1. The word remembrance “hupomnesis” speaks of an act of recollection which is excited by a person or thing not the word “anamnesis” related to self originated thought. vs. 5a
 2. The quality of Timothy’s faith is described by the word genuine. vs. 5a
 - a. The word genuine “anupokritos” means unpretentious, unhypocritical faith that is actively trusting and depending on God through His Word and Holy Spirit in obedience to deny self and please God and do His will.
 - b. The word comes from the word for an actor on the stage or theatre who would present themselves to the audience as someone other than their own person by the wearing of a mask.
 - c. The faith of Timothy is said to be unmasked and without hypocrisy, it was authentic.
 - 3 The genuine faith was first found in his grandmother Lois and then in his mother Eunice. vs. 5b
 - a. The word dwelt “enoikeo” means to dwell in one and influencing him for good.

- a. The word “oikos” means "a home".
 - b. The word “en” means in or upon.
 - c. The word “oikeo” means to live at home.
 - 1) The word is used of the Holy Spirit in us. Rom. 8:11
 - 2) The word is used of God in us. 2Cor. 6:16
 - 3) The word is used of the word of God in us. Col. 3:16
 4. The confidence of Paul is that the same faith dwells in Timothy also.

* He uses the same word regarding his trust and confidence in Christ. 2Tim. 1:12; Phil. 1:6
- C.** The faithfulness of Timothy’s mother and grandmother were brought to the mind of Timothy by Paul. 2Tim. 3:14c-15
1. Timothy Knew and was assured from whom he had learned the truth of the gospel. vs. 14c
 - a. The word “whom” is plural.
 - b. Paul had already mentioned the fact that his Grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice had genuine faith which was imparted to him. 1Tim. 1:5
 - c. Paul certainly has to include himself.
 - d. Knowing the character and reputation of his Grandmother, Mother and Paul, he was able to trust them.

2. Timothy knew the Scriptures from a child.
vs. 15a
- a. The word childhood “brephos” can mean an unborn child an infant or a young child and is used in these three way in the New Testament.
* The meaning in our context is from a young age when instruction begins.
 - b. The Scriptures “hieros gramma” mean the sacred writings, documents or records and is used in these three way in the New Testament.
 - 1) The meaning in our text is the Inspired revelation of God’s word to man and appears in various forms of the word. Matt. 21:42; Lk. 24:27; Jn. 5:39, 47
 - 2) The apostle is referring to the Old Testament Scripture primarily.
 - 3) The epistle of Peter records that Paul’s writings were already considered “Holy Scripture”. 2Pet. 3:15
 - 4) Paul joined the New Testament with Old Testament and calls them Scriptures. 1Tim. 5:17-18
* In our next study we will look at this more in dept. vs. 16-17

Illustration

Millet who captivated the art-loving world had a godly grandmother. Just as he was leaving home for

Paris to be a student, she said, “I would rather see you dead than unfaithful to God’s commands.”

Just as he was coming to be known as one of the greatest painters of his day, her influence could be seen in every picture he put on canvas. She kept reminding him, “Remember, you were a Christian before you became a painter.” #3630

Application

1. Some of you were saved after you were married and your home may be divided. 1Cor. 7:12-13
 - a. If you are the man, then as the head of the home you need to be that example of a Christian.
 - b. Then you need to teach your children if they are living at home the word and take them to church, if they are grown then you need to make sure that your life and preaching are one.
 - c. This sometimes is opposed by the unsaved mate and it can cause difficulties in the home.
2. Some of you compromised and you married an unsaved person knowingly and now you also have a divided home. 1Pet. 3:1-2, 7
 - a. You need to recommit your life to God and be faithful to Him.
 - b. You need to make sure you are growing in your faith by reading, studying and having fellowship with other Christians.
 - c. This also can become a big problem by the objections of the unsaved mate but you do not cut yourself off from all feeding and fellowship!

- d. The grace of God has allowed some of you to see your mates saved though you compromised but this should never be thought of as Scriptural nor true for all.
3. Some of you will see the fruit of you labor in your children as they walk with God even though your house is divided, as God sanctified them through your faith in Jesus. 1Cor. 7:14
- a. This does not mean that all our children automatically will be saved but only that they receive the benefit of the saved parent to influence those in the home to see God work.
 - b. They as individuals must make that personal decision to walk with God.
 - c. The Lord and Savior has no grandchildren.

This was the commitment of Lois and Eunice paid off!

III. The contentment of Lois and Eunice.

- A. Lois and Eunice were satisfied in life seeing Timothy being used of God and his affectionate relationship with Paul through many years of ministry. 2Tim. 1:4a
 - 1. Paul expressed his great desired to see Timothy The phrase greatly desiring “epipotheo” means to yearn for, long for or be earnest towards.
 - a. The word is used for our longing for our new glorified body. 2Cor. 5:2

- b. The word is used for Epaphroditus longing for the Philippians. Phil. 2:26
 - c. The word is used for the Holy Spirit who dwells in us and yearns to envy against the flesh. Ja. 4:5
 - d. The word is used for the craving of God's word as a newborn. 1Pet. 2:2
- 2. The long years had created a close bond between the two men of love and affection.
 - 3. The relationship was like a father and son as Paul was much older and described so in the spiritual relationship since Paul was responsible for Timothy's conversion. 1Tim. 1:2a; 2Tim. 1:2a
 - 4. The separation had to have been long by this time, Paul had been abandoned by most and was lonely for his company. 2Tim. 4:9-12
 - 5. The personal harm by Alexander and his defense without anyone had worn on him. 2Tim. 4:14-16
- B. Lois and Eunice possibly witnessed the tears of Timothy for Paul. 2Tim. 1:4b-c
 - 1. Tears are usually identified with pain and weakness, especially in men.
 - a. The perception of what a man is, according to the standards of the world is so distorted and warped that it sabotages healthy relationships with women.

- b. The caring, affectionate, gentle and humble man is caricatured as spineless and wimpy.
- 2. The Bible defines for us the perfect picture of what a man is to be in the person of Christ.
 - a. He was meek and gentle, not weak and feminine.
 - b. He was the servant of all, not served by all.
 - c. He honored and obeyed God in everything.
 - d. He wept.
 - e. He loved to the point of sacrificing His life for others instead of saving it.
- 3. The occasion of Timothy's tears is not identified.
 - a. The Ephesian elders at Miletus wept over Paul and fell on his neck because he said they would see him no more, Timothy was present but he continued with Paul. * The apostle cried often. Acts 20:19; 2Cor. 2:4
 - b. The apostle left Timothy at Ephesus to oversee the church but he was coming back, so this probably again was not the occasion. 1Tim. 1:3; 3:14
 - c. The occasion could of been the most resent one when Paul left to Nicopolis where he decided to winter. Tit. 3:12

- d. Paul purposed that the meeting would serve to fill him with joy. 2Tim. 1:4c
 - 1) The apostle was all alone and lonely.
 - 2) The young man Timothy would see Paul again.
 - 3) The meeting would be the expression of God's agape love, evident by joy produced by the Holy Spirit. Jn. 15:9-11; Gal. 5:22
- C. Lois and Eunice were to an extent the ones responsible for Timothy in continuing in the things he had learned. 2Tim. 3:14-15
 - 1. Timothy was to continue "meno" which means to hold to, remain or be stationary in the things he had learned. vs. 14
 - a. The word "but" is key revealing a contrast of Timothy and the false teachers who would only grow worse!
 - b. The object of his being steadfast, stationary and unwavering was due to the things he had learned and assured of in the gospel.
 - 1) The word learned "manthano" means to have comprehended and understood, we get the word disciple from it!
 - 2) The word assured "pistoo" means to make faithful, render trustworthy, to make firm, establish or to be firmly persuaded.

- 3) This is the only time it appears in this form.
 - 4) The young Pastor had come to a settle conviction in both his heart and mind that the things he had learned were the sum total of God's truth, fully reliable.
2. The teaching of his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice taught him the Old Testament Scriptures, the strong foundation for the gospel. vs. 15
 - a. Timothy had known the Holy Scriptures from childhood.
 - b. Timothy had known that they were trustworthy and able to make him wise for salvation through faith which that is in Christ Jesus.
 - a. Timothy was Paul's son in the faith. 1Cor. 4:17; 1Tim. 1:2
 - b. Timothy was prophesied over regarding his call. 1Tim.1:18
 - c. Timothy was prophesied over by the eiders and received gifts. 1Tim. 4:14
 - d. Timothy was declared to be like-minded to Paul for ministry, unique to all others. Phil. 2:19-22
 - e. Timothy was requested by Paul to be with him in his last hours on earth. 2Tim. 4:9

An aged, white-haired mother sat with a smile on her face, waiting for her famous son, Dwight Eisenhower, famous son, dwight Eisenhower, to arrive. Someone said to her, "You must be very proud of your great and illustrious son." Upon which she asked, "which son?" each one was equally great to that noble mother.

Said Dwight Eisenhower: "My sainted mother taught me a devotion to God and a love of country which have ever sustained me in my many lonely and bitter moments of decision in distant and hostile lands. To her, I yield a son's reverent thanks." #3651

Application

1. There can be no greater joy for a parent or grandparent then to see their children and grandchildren walking with God.
 - * "I have no greater joy than to hear that my children walk in truth". 3Jn. 1:4
2. There is nothing that is greater than being called to the ministry and what a delight to see one's child be called of God, knowing that as a parent you had a foundational work in it.
 - * "I thank Christ Jesus our Lord who has enabled me, because He counted me faithful, putting me into the ministry". 1Tim. 1:12
3. The teaching of God's word to our children is only the beginning, for as parents we continue to pray that they may continue and to fight the good fight and not quit the race but finish it. 2Tim. 4:7

Illustration

The contentment of Lois and Eunice was in seeing Timothy flourish spiritually!

Conclusion

Remember the lessons from Lois and Eunice from these three perspectives.

- I.** The conversion of Lois and Eunice was through the gospel!
- II.** The commitment of Lois and Eunice paid off!
- III.** The contentment of Lois and Eunice was in seeing Timothy flourish spiritually!