

A Woman's Influence

Introduction

Proverbs 31:10 declares...

Bible

(10) Who can find a virtuous woman? for her price is far above rubies.

Proverbs 31:10 - KJV

Introduction

The passage continues to provide a description of her character. This description, provided by a mother to her son, begins with a declaration of the value of the virtuous woman. We discover that every woman possesses value that nothing on earth can illustrate. This value represents potential. Ladies, regardless of your age or status, you have value and potential beyond anything this world can capably draw a comparison.

What are you doing with it?

What will you do with it?

Pastor Tony Evans wrote of the virtuous woman that "she is a woman who knows how to grab heaven and apply it to earth so life becomes better for everyone under her influence" (Tony

Evans).

As we consider this, let's look at an example in the Bible of women who used their potential to influence eternity for Jesus Christ.

Look up 2 Timothy 1. In this text, we will read verse 5. Then, we will turn just over to 2 Timothy 3 and read verses 14-17.

Bible

(5) When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee, which dwelt first in thy grandmother Lois, and thy mother Eunice; and I am persuaded that in thee also.

2 Timothy 1:5 - KJV

Bible

(14) But continue thou in the things which thou hast learned and hast been assured of, knowing of whom thou hast learned them; (15) And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (16) All scripture is given by inspiration of God, and is profitable for doctrine, for reproof, for correction, for instruction in righteousness: (17) That the man of God may be perfect, thoroughly furnished unto all good works.

2 Timothy 3:14-17 - KJV

Introduction

Lois and Eunice exemplify women who influenced eternity for Jesus Christ through influencing their grandson and son, Timothy.

Ladies, regardless of your age or status, you have the same opportunity - the same potential.

Whether you are a wife without children, a mother, a grandmother, a widow, a single mom, a young girl or lady, never-married, etc., you have this opportunity and potential. You can influence eternity for Jesus Christ.

How?

From the text, let's identify and apply two activities Lois and Eunice exhibited that allowed them to influence eternity for Christ.

1...Demonstrate what an Authentic Faith looks like (2 Timothy 1:5).

Explanation

What is "unfeigned faith?"

Literally, "unfeigned" means undissembled (an old English word that means not pretended, genuine, or undisguised) or sincere. "The phrase unfeigned faith could be literally translated, unhypocritical faith – that is, faith that is not an act. It was for real, not just in appearance" (David Guzik).

Illustration

Is your faith the real thing?

Coke Zero - says Coke, but has nothing. It's not the real thing at all.

Diet Coke - says Coke, but without the guilt. It's like the person that says they are saved, but lives however they want.

Cherry Coke - Coke plus something. This is salvation plus something, whether it is baptism, church membership, etc.

Coke Classic - This is the real thing.

Is your faith the real thing?

Explanation

Notice if you would...

A...The Presence of Authentic Faith

Explanation

Paul shared with Timothy that he often remembered him in prayer. Timothy was Paul's son in the faith. He met Timothy on his second missionary journey in Lystra, brought Timothy with him when he left, and mentored him for ministry. Paul did not see or know Timothy's heart, but Timothy's own life had convinced Paul that he truly believed and followed Jesus.

B...The Pattern of Authentic Faith

Explanation

However, Paul knew it first dwelt in Timothy's grandmother and mother. At some point, perhaps during Paul's first missionary journey to Lystra or after that time through the ministry of the church, Lois and Eunice believed in Jesus Christ. They sincerely believed and followed Him in their lives. They were not perfect, but they made their faith so central in their lives that Paul was convinced of it.

There are several truths to consider as we think about Paul's gratitude for their authentic faith.

1) You can have a positive, incalculable effect on eternity through influencing your children and grandchildren for Jesus Christ.

Application

What did Lois and Eunice accomplish for Jesus and eternity?

The reality is that we do not know of anything apart from Paul's words here and 2 Timothy 3:14-17.

Did their authentic faith influence anyone else?

I am sure that it did, but even though I only know it influenced Timothy, that is enough. Timothy went on to travel with Paul and lead New Testament churches. I have no question that Timothy

led people to Christ and disciplined others who led more people to Christ.

Who influenced him?

His mother and grandmother.

Recognize the tremendous opportunities you have to influence your children and grandchildren, or even others within your sphere for Jesus Christ.

2) The authentic faith of others exemplifies, not effects, faith.

Application

You cannot save anybody else.

You cannot choose salvation for anyone else.

No one can choose salvation for you.

Sir, your wife's faith will not take you to heaven.

Ma'am, your husband's faith will not gain you salvation.

Children, your parents' or grandparents' faith will not grant you entry to God's family. He only has children, not grandchildren.

Dad and mom, you can't depend on your children's faith to be good enough for you.

If you have examples of authentic faith, praise God for the heritage. Praise God for the people you can look up to. However, do not make the mistake of believing that their faith will do anything for you.

3) Exemplifying authentic faith is not dependent on the ideal situation.

Application

Do you notice anything missing from verse five?

I do. Eunice's husband, Timothy's father, is not mentioned. He is mentioned in Acts 16 where Timothy is mentioned. Acts 16 identifies Eunice as a Jewess who believed, but Timothy's father as a Greek without any indication that he believed and followed Jesus. In all likelihood, Timothy's father had not to this point believed, was absent, or was spiritually inactive. Yet, Timothy's life was influenced by the faith of the women in his life.

Let me be very clear.

God does not desire broken households and homes. He does not desire broken relationships. He does not desire divided families. He doesn't desire absent fathers or mothers. He doesn't desire present fathers or mothers who are lost, carnal, or apathetic. These do not represent His desire.

But all of these exist and happen, don't they?

Some of us came from homes or have homes like that.

Some of use have raised or are raising children as a single parent.

Some of us are living with a spouse who does not believe or does not care to live for Christ.

Because of those things that God does not desire, we wonder if we can still influence eternity for Jesus.

Lois and Eunice say, "YES!"

Their situation wasn't ideal, yet their authentic faith influence Timothy.

As Paul penned 1 Corinthians 7, I have to wonder if he thought of people like Lois and Eunice when he penned...

Bible

(12) But to the rest speak I, not the Lord: If any brother hath a wife that believeth not, and she be pleased to dwell with him, let him not put her away. (13) And the woman which hath an husband that believeth not, and if he be pleased to dwell with her, let her not leave him. (14) For the unbelieving husband is sanctified by the wife, and the unbelieving wife is sanctified by the husband: else were your children unclean; but now are they holy. (15) But if the unbelieving depart, let him depart. A brother or a sister is not under bondage in such cases: but God hath called us to peace. (16) For what knowest thou, O wife, whether thou shalt save thy husband? or how knowest thou, O man, whether thou shalt save thy wife?

Application

Believe God can work, even if your situation is not ideal. Believe and follow Jesus authentically.

2...Demonstrate where the Absolute Truth comes from (2 Timothy 3:14-17).

Explanation

Towards the end of the book, Paul encouraged Timothy to continue in the face of false teachers and seducers. He challenged Timothy to continue in the things he had learned and to remember whom he learned them from.

A...The Source

Explanation

Whom had Timothy learned the truth from?

Certainly, Paul was involved. However, he was not the only one, nor was he the first one.

"Child" in the text is the translation of a word in the original Greek that literally means infant.

From the very beginning of his life, Timothy was being taught.

Who had that kind of access to Timothy?

His mother.

B...The Subject

Explanation

Of all that a mother and/or grandmother teaches her child and/or grandchild, Lois and Eunice taught Timothy the Scriptures. They taught him the Bible.

1) The Bible contains Saving Truth.

Application

It's been said that "one can be wise unto many different things, but the wisdom unto salvation is the most important wisdom that one can ever have."

You want to teach your kids to make it, even succeed in life. In your efforts to teach them that, do not fail to prepare them for the next.

2) The Bible contains Transforming Truth.

Application

The Bible, unlike and beyond anything else, changes lives. The power of God's Word to show me what's right, what's wrong, how to correct what's wrong to make it right, and how to keep it right identifies positive characteristics. These are realities to be thankful about and to praise God for, not things to be negative about.

3) The Bible contains Equipping Truth.

Application

The Word has the power to equip anyone for a life of service to God. Teach God's Word and release control of your children or those in your sphere to God's purposes.

“We best oppose error by promoting a solid knowledge of the word of truth; and the greatest kindness we can do to children, is to make them early to know the Bible” (Matthew Henry).

C...The Substance

Application

What did the testimony of Lois and Eunice prompt as they demonstrated where the absolute truth came from?

1) Prompted Conversion

Illustration

C. H. Spurgeon came to Christ as a young man. Even as an adult serving the Lord effectively, he often spoke of the influence of his mother. He recounted how she prayed, "Now, Lord, if my children go on in their sins, it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear a swift witness against them at the day of judgment if they lay not hold of Christ"

(<https://www.princeofpreachers.org/quotes/charles-spurgeons-tribute-to-his-godly-mother>).

2) Prompted Confidence

3) Prompted Continuance

Conclusion

You have a unique and privileged opportunity to influence your children, grandchildren, and others in your sphere for eternity and Jesus Christ. You are full of value and potential!