

## “LOIS AND EUNICE”

### I. 2 Timothy 1:1-7

A. Around the age of 5 or so, my Mother became a Believer...

- 1) My Grandmother had apparently been a Believer long before Mom...
- 2) From that point on my mom and grandmother drugged me--drug me to church on a regular basis... :-) But I'll always be grateful for their faithfulness...
- 3) My Grandma gave me my first Bible; a KJV with great pictures... (The crayon scribbles are from my little sister, Ronda... While I never scribbled in her Bible I tormented her in ways that deserved all her graffiti...) I occasionally still use this Bible...
- 4) Whenever I read about Timothy's grandmother, Lois and his mother, Eunice, I can't help but think about Mildred and Eleanor...

B. Lois and Eunice, both Jewish, were likely led to Christ by Paul when he traveled through Lystra on his first missionary journey with Barnabas... (cf Acts 14:8-20)

- 1) Paul & Barnabas healed a man crippled from birth in Lystra which caused a huge uproar because the folks there thought they were gods; Barnabas-Zeus (Jupiter) and Paul Hermes (Mercury). They actually started to sacrifice bulls to them!
- 2) Paul and Barnabas stopped them and then proceeded to preach the Gospel... (It may have been this message that caused Lois & Eunice to believe in Jesus!)
- 3) Then some Jews showed up from Antioch and Iconium, stirred the crowd against the apostles, and Paul was stoned, drug outside the city as dead. Probably was!
- 4) All this was perhaps witnessed by a boy named Timothy, Lois' grandson and Eunice's son... When Paul & Silas came through on their second trip, Timothy (likely a teenager now) was chosen by these brothers to serve with them. Acts 16:1-5...

C. 2 Timothy 1:1-7 is our text for today... (Paul writes from the Mamertine Prison.)

- 1) Paul had a rich heritage--could trace his lineage all the way back to Benjamin, son of Jacob. But he always referred to Timothy as his spiritual son in the faith... As believers, we've all been grafted into this same spiritual tree!
  - 2) Paul exhorts Timothy, reminds him of the legacy of his grandmother and mother, and to *fan the flames* of the gift granted him by the Lord... (Paul will die soon; the church is still in an embryonic state; the challenges are enormous (Jews, Rome, pagans, heresy wolves!); it's mantle-passing time and he needs Timothy to rise to the occasion.
  - 3) Later in the letter--2 Tim. 4:13--Paul writes: "*When you come, bring the cloak that I left with Carpus at Troas, and my scrolls, especially the parchments.*" (We presume Paul wants his cloak because the prison is cold, but maybe he wants to throw it around Timothy like Elijah did to Elisha...)
- D. The impact of faithful mothers and grandmothers cannot be fully calculated...  
(Quote by Abraham Lincoln; Old Spanish Proverb...)

- 1) If it hadn't been for Lois & Eunice, would Paul and Silas still have chosen Timothy to go with them? Lois & Eunice's impact is immeasurable...
- 2) God used my Mom & Grandma so that I could preach to you this day!
- 3) To all our Moms & Grandmas: How might the seeds you're sowing today turn out in your sons and daughters in the years to come? It will be fun to watch...

E. What happened to Timothy? Did he embrace the charge Paul entrusted to Him? Did the legacy he left behind honor his mother & grandmother?

- 1) Excerpt from *Foxe's Book of Martyrs*) Psalm 16:5-6...
- 2) Close with Prayer...

### Scriptures, Videos, & Bonus Stuff

#### 2 Timothy 1:1-7 (ESV)

1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God according to the promise of the life that is in Christ Jesus, 2 To Timothy, my beloved child: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God whom I serve, as did my ancestors, with a clear conscience, as I remember you constantly in my prayers night and day. 4 As I remember your tears, I long to see you, that I may be filled with joy. 5 I am reminded of your sincere faith, a faith that dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice and now, I am sure, dwells in you as well. 6

For this reason I remind you to fan into flame the gift of God, which is in you through the laying on of my hands, **7** for God gave us a spirit not of fear but of power and love and self-control.

#### **Acts 16:1-5 (NLT)**

**1** Paul went first to Derbe and then to Lystra, where there was a young disciple named Timothy. His mother was a Jewish believer, but his father was a Greek. **2** Timothy was well thought of by the believers in Lystra and Iconium, **3** so Paul wanted him to join them on their journey. In deference to the Jews of the area, he arranged for Timothy to be circumcised before they left, for everyone knew that his father was a Greek. **4** Then they went from town to town, instructing the believers to follow the decisions made by the apostles and elders in Jerusalem. **5** So the churches were strengthened in their faith and grew larger every day.

#### **Psalms 16:5-6 (NASB)**

**5** The Lord is the portion of my inheritance and my cup; You support my lot. **6** The lines have fallen to me in pleasant places; Indeed, my heritage is beautiful to me.

#### **Timothy's Death - Excerpt from Fox's Book of Martyrs**

"Timothy was the celebrated disciple of St. Paul, and bishop of Ephesus, where he zealously governed the Church until A.D. 97. At this period, as the pagans were about to celebrate a feast called Catagogion, Timothy, meeting the procession, severely reprov'd them for their ridiculous idolatry, which so exasperated the people that they fell upon him with their clubs, and beat him in so dreadful a manner that he expired of the bruises two days later."

- Foxe's Book of Martyrs, Chapter II, *The Second Persecution, Under Domitian*, A.D. 81, last paragraph.

#### **Quote by Abraham Lincoln**

*"No man is poor who has had a godly mother."*

#### **Old Spanish Proverb**

*"An ounce of mother is worth a ton of priest."*

#### **From "Mother's Day Reflections"**

**By Kelly Boggs**

A teenager entered the kitchen one evening while his mother was preparing dinner. As the boy sauntered through the room, he placed a slip of paper on the counter. He then took a seat at the table and waited quietly. When she found a moment to pause from her meal preparation, mom dried her hands on her apron. She picked up the paper and read what her son had written:

- \* Cutting the grass: \$10.00
- \* Cleaning my room all week: \$5.00
- \* Running errands: \$2.00
- \* Two hours of baby-sitting: \$10.00
- \* Taking out the garbage: \$2.00
- \* Maintaining good grades: \$5.00
- \* Total owed: \$34.00

The boy studied his mother as she examined his 'bill.' She said nothing, but fished a pen from the pocket of her apron. Mom turned the paper over and began to write. In a few moments she stopped, placed the pen and paper on the counter, and continued preparing dinner.

Curious, the boy walked over and picked up his 'bill,' and read what his mother had written:

- \* Nine months of pregnancy: No charge.
- \* Late night feedings: No charge.
- \* Diaper changes: No charge.
- \* Potty training: No charge.
- \* Bandaging scrapes and scratches: No charge.
- \* Bedtime stories: No charge.
- \* Doctor and dentist visits: No charge.
- \* Taxi service: No charge.
- \* Academic tutoring: No charge.
- \* Seasonal cheerleading: No charge.
- \* Hugs and encouragement: No charge.
- \* Etiquette training: No charge.
- \* Food procurement and meal preparation: No charge.
- \* Clothes, toys, etc.: No charge.

\* Total owed: No charge.

When the boy looked up from the paper, his eyes were filling with tears. He took the pen from the counter, turned the paper over, and hastily scribbled on it. He handed the paper to his mom. She looked at it. Written across the 'bill' were the words 'paid in full.' The boy hugged his mother and whispered, 'I love you.'

- Kelly Boggs, "Mother's Day Reflections," [pastors.com](http://pastors.com).

### **Some Excellent Video Clips**

**A Mother's Legacy - John MacArthur**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=m3qAN3K7mLk>

**Do Something Risky With Your Life - John Piper**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6AZVkexl1qQ>

**Why Marriage Is Important - John Piper**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nd3AmKexugM>

**Timothy with His Mom & Grandma on Route 66**

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6ZFsjulioK8>

### **Bonus Stuff**

#### **Acts 14: 8-20 (ESV)**

**8** Now at Lystra there was a man sitting who could not use his feet. He was crippled from birth and had never walked. **9** He listened to Paul speaking. And Paul, looking intently at him and seeing that he had faith to be made well, **10** said in a loud voice, "Stand upright on your feet." And he sprang up and began walking. **11** And when the crowds saw what Paul had done, they lifted up their voices, saying in Lycaonian, "The gods have come down to us in the likeness of men!" **12** Barnabas they called Zeus, and Paul, Hermes, because he was the chief speaker. **13** And the priest of Zeus, whose temple was at the entrance to the city, brought oxen and garlands to the gates and wanted to offer sacrifice with the crowds. **14** But when the apostles Barnabas and Paul heard of it, they tore their garments and rushed out into the crowd, crying out, **15** "Men, why are you doing these things? We also are men, of like nature with you, and we bring you good news, that you should turn from these vain things to a living God, who made the heaven and the earth and the sea and all that is in them. **16** In past generations he allowed all the nations to walk in their own ways. **17** Yet he did not leave himself without witness, for he did good by giving you rains from heaven and fruitful seasons, satisfying your hearts with food and gladness." **18** Even with these words they scarcely restrained the people from offering sacrifice to them. **19** But Jews came from Antioch and Iconium, and having persuaded the crowds, they stoned Paul and dragged him out of the city, supposing that he was dead. **20** But when the disciples gathered about him, he rose up and entered the city, and on the next day he went on with Barnabas to Derbe.

#### **Charles Spurgeon on His Mother**

*I cannot tell how much I owe to the prayers of my good mother. I remember her once praying, "Now Lord, if my children go on in sin it will not be from ignorance that they perish, and my soul must bear swift witness against them at the day of judgment if they lay not hold on Christ and claim Him as their personal Savior."*

#### **Mother Saves Her Infant Son in a Blizzard**

Years ago, a young mother was making her way across the hills of South Wales, carrying her tiny baby in her arms, when she was overtaken by a blinding blizzard. She never reached her destination and when the blizzard had subsided her body was found by searchers beneath a mound of snow. But they discovered that before her death, she had taken off all her outer clothing and wrapped it about her baby. When they unwrapped the child, to their great surprise and joy, they found he was alive and well. She had mounded her body over his and given her life for her child, proving the depths of her mother love. Years later that child, David Lloyd George, grown to manhood, became prime minister of Great Britain, and, without doubt, one of England's greatest statesman.

- James S. Hewett, Illustrations Unlimited, Tyndale, 1972, p. 375.

#### **A Little Boy Forgets His Lines**

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."

- *Bits and Pieces*, August, 1989.