



Intro to Eunice, Timothy's Mother

Sunday, May 12, 2019

Pastor Don Denyes

In 1 Corinthians 11, Paul exhorts his readers to imitate him as he imitates Christ. It is a fair principle to draw from that text that there are godly people whose example is worth following. This doesn't mean that we revere them or worship them (Rev. 22:8-9). But it does mean that God intends us to imitate their example as we worship Him.

In 2 Timothy, we learn that Timothy's mother, Eunice, is one of those examples. She was a Jew who believed in Jesus and raised her son, Timothy, to know God in the Old Testament Scriptures. Since the only way to know God is through the Scriptures, it is clear in the book of Acts who knows God and responds to the preaching of the gospel because they know the Scriptures. This not only set Timothy up for a life of faithfulness to Christ, but of fruitful ministry as well. Eunice even named her son Timothy, meaning "one who knows God"—demonstrating the kind of expectant faith that anticipated God working in his life through her ministry.

Context

Eunice's name appears only in 2 Timothy. But it is telling in 2 Timothy that Paul informally names Timothy's genealogy through his mother and grandmother. In the Old Testament, genealogies were meant to reveal biological relations and always traced the male line. This was significant to track the descendants of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob as the people of God. In the New Testament, it becomes abundantly clear that the promises are not for those in any biological line, but for those who have faith. Therefore, women play a more prominent role as their faith is passed down generation to generation. The primacy is no longer on the biological family, but on the "family" of people who share Abraham's faith.

Discuss

- 1) What do you appreciate most about your mom?

- 2) Read James 2:14-26. How would you describe the difference between genuine or sincere faith and false faith?

- 3) It's reasonable to think that Eunice endured trials as a Jewish woman who believed in Jesus (Acts 16). This theme is picked up by Paul in 2 Timothy. How does seeing the Church as it exists all over the world today, given the suffering of Christians throughout the ages, encourage us to persevere under trials in our lives?

- 4) Who in your life has been faithful to teach you the word of God? Is there anyone in your life you're currently pursuing to share God's word with?

- 5) Pastor Don made it clear that "parental faith can't save, but it can sanctify." Yet, many people today rely on the faith or spiritual disciplines of their parents when they talk about their own conversion. Why might someone think that they are saved because of what their parents have done?