

Mother's Day 2008 Sermon

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Harambee Church

The Glory of God in the calling of Motherhood - 2 Timothy 1:1-7 & 3:14-15

2 Timothy 1:1-7

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.

2 Timothy 3:14-15

14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus.

Welcome to Harambee! Today is Mother's Day, a special day in our culture where we honor mother's of the past, present and future, and the impact they have had in our lives. The Scripture is filled with stories of mothers who made a significant impact in history, like Moses' mother Jochebed and Jesus' mother Mary. We will see that the Scriptures have much to say about the significance that mothers have in the redemptive story of God.

1. Faith in motherhood

We know from the text that Timothy's grandmother Lois and mother Eunice had a "sincere faith" and that faith was passed down to Timothy. *"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."* We also see that Timothy learned the Scriptures from these same women. *"14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how **from childhood you have been acquainted with the sacred writings**, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."* If we go back to when Paul first meets Timothy in Acts 16, we're told that Timothy was *"the son of a Jewish woman who was a believer, but his father was a Greek"* (Acts 16:1). Notice the contrast of Timothy's father being Greek compared to Timothy's mother who was a Jewish believer. However, Timothy was *"well spoken of by the brothers at Lystra and Iconium"* (Acts 16:2). Paul was so impressed with the potential and giftedness in this young man that he wanted Timothy to accompany him on his journeys.

So were Lois and Eunice just Biblical supermoms that other mother's can only dream to be like? Since these women knew the Scriptures, they would have read God's commands to teach their children:

*Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - 4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart. 7 **You shall teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. 8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes. 9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.*

*Proverbs 1:7-9 - 7 The fear of the Lord is the beginning of knowledge; fools despise wisdom and instruction. 8 Hear, my son, your father's instruction, and **forsake not your mother's teaching**, 9 for*

they are a graceful garland for your head and pendants for your neck.

We live in a culture that values independence and finding truth on your own terms. We use phrases such as "I made my faith my own" or "It was my parent's faith, but now it's my faith." In some ways we have diminished the value of connecting our parent's faith to our own faith. Paul shows us in his words to Timothy that not only was it important that he shared the same faith of his ancestors, but that faith of Timothy's mother and grandmother was an important reason of why Timothy should press on in his faith: *"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...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...**"* Paul continues with a reminder to Timothy to remember from whom he learned the Scriptures: *"14 But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have firmly believed, **knowing from whom you learned it 15 and how from childhood** you have been acquainted with the sacred writings, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."*

But you cannot guarantee that your children will follow Jesus. What is your only hope? Trust that the God works through the revelation of Scripture in revealing Christ to your children. **"...which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith in Christ Jesus."** That's why the Scriptures are so important.

Psalm 78:5-7 - 5 He established a testimony in Jacob and appointed a law in Israel, which he commanded our fathers to teach to their children, 6 that the next generation might know them, the children yet unborn, and arise and tell them to their children, 7 so that they should set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments;

2. Blessing in motherhood

One of the most important blessings in motherhood are children. God loves children and talks about them with such love and compassion in the Scriptures. We live in a culture that views children anywhere from the latest fashion trend to a primitive form of life that can be destroyed in the womb. Let us be reminded of how God views children from the Scriptures:

Psalm 113:9 - 9 He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!

Psalm 127:3-5 - 3 Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior are the children of one's youth. 5 Blessed is the man who fills his quiver with them! He shall not be put to shame when he speaks with his enemies in the gate.

Proverbs 17:16 - Grandchildren are the crown of the aged, and the glory of children is their fathers.

Matthew 19:13-15 - 13 Then children were brought to him that he might lay his hands on them and pray. The disciples rebuked the people, 14 but Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me and do not hinder them, for to such belongs the kingdom of heaven." 15 And he laid his hands on them and went away.

3. Mission in motherhood

Every mother must understand the significant role you can play in bringing the Gospel to bear in a dark world. Here are five practical examples of missions that mothers can participate in to the glory of God:

- **The most important discipleship you will ever undertake is your own children**

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - 4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command

you today shall be on your heart. **7 You shall teach them diligently to your children**, and shall talk of them when you sit in your house, and when you walk by the way, and when you lie down, and when you rise. **8 You shall bind them as a sign on your hand, and they shall be as frontlets between your eyes.** **9 You shall write them on the doorposts of your house and on your gates.**

- **Young single women, married women and young mothers**

Titus 2:3-5 - **3 Older women likewise are to be reverent in behavior, not slanderers or slaves to much wine. They are to teach what is good, 4 and so train the young women to love their husbands and children, 5 to be self-controlled, pure, working at home, kind, and submissive to their own husbands, that the word of God may not be reviled.**

- **Mothers who do not have their hope in Jesus**

We live in a culture where mothers are not valued in the way God intends them to be valued. Mothers with a relationship with Jesus have a chance to enter into the world of mothers who are trying to find meaning and worth in their own children, instead of in the Creator of those children. We have an opportunity to enter into their world and introduce them to the deep treasure of Jesus.

- **Advocates for the unborn**

Approximately 1.3 million abortions occur every year in the United States, with an estimated 47 million abortions in the US alone since we started tracking. That's over 20% of babies being aborted per year. There is an estimate 46 million abortions per year worldwide. The world ratio is 26 induced abortions per 100 known pregnancies. Who better to champion the cause for the unborn than the mothers who have carried children.

- **Mothers: the unevangelized people of the world**

Mothers make up one of the largest unevangelized groups of people in the world and are one of the hardest to reach, yet most strategic groups to reach amongst Muslim peoples. Mothers carry the best ability to make deep and lasting relationships with these isolated Muslim women.

4. Glory in motherhood

As a follower of Christ, your success and identity as a mother is not wrapped up in whether your children ultimately follow Jesus, how successful you are in the world's definition of being a mother, or even how "successful" your children become. Your identity is ultimately found in God through the Jesus Christ.

Deuteronomy 6:4-9 - **4 "Hear, O Israel: The Lord our God, the Lord is one. 5 You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your might. 6 And these words that I command you today shall be on your heart.**

Psalms 17:13-15 - **13 Arise, O Lord! Confront him, subdue him! Deliver my soul from the wicked by your sword, 14 from men by your hand, O Lord, from men of the world whose portion is in this life. You fill their womb with treasure; they are satisfied with children, and they leave their abundance to their infants. 15 As for me, I shall behold your face in righteousness; when I awake, I shall be satisfied with your likeness.**

Psalms 128 - **1 Blessed is everyone who fears the Lord, who walks in his ways! 2 You shall eat the fruit of the labor of your hands; you shall be blessed, and it shall be well with you. 3 Your wife will be like a fruitful vine within your house; your children will be like olive shoots around your table. 4 Behold, thus shall the man be blessed who fears the Lord. 5 The Lord bless you from Zion! May you see the prosperity of Jerusalem all the days of your life! 6 May you see your children's children! Peace be upon Israel!**