

A Mother's Legacy

2017 Mark Beard

Text: Judges 5:28-30 and 2 Timothy 1:3-5 NIV

Judges 5:28-30

28 "Through the window peered Sisera's mother;
behind the lattice she cried out,
'Why is his chariot so long in coming?
Why is the clatter of his chariots delayed?'
29 The wisest of her ladies answer her;
indeed, she keeps saying to herself,
30 'Are they not finding and dividing the spoils:
a woman or two for each man,
colorful garments as plunder for Sisera,
colorful garments embroidered, highly

embroidered garments for my neck—
all this as plunder?'

2 Timothy 1:3-5 "I thank God, whom I serve, as my ancestors did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 'Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 'I am reminded of your sincere faith, which first lived in your grandmother Lois and in your mother Eunice and, I am persuaded, now lives in you also.

Introduction

Mom, if you ever have wondered if your influence mattered in the lives of your children, take note of these stories. These are excerpts from two stories of two men, vastly different in their lives, and the role their mother must have played in their lives. While each man had a free will to choose his own path and were responsible for their own decisions and lives, the notable point here is what each saw as their mother's source of rejoicing. Sisera's mother rejoiced that he was a mighty oppressor of others, while Timothy's mother rejoiced he was a man of faith and kindness. Each could have chosen other paths, but to some degree, both seemed to follow after mom's approval.

Note the *differences* between these two mothers and the legacy left for their sons.

I. One Rejoiced – One Wept

A. One could rejoice because the same faith that lived in her, was alive in her son.

B. The other was left with no source of rejoicing.

II. One Left a Legacy of Faith - One a Legacy of Unbelief

A. Timothy's mother taught him to believe and serve God.

B. Sisera's mother taught him to believe in, and serve himself.

III. Every Mother Chooses Her Legacy, Choose a Great One!

A. How do you want to be remembered?

Abraham Lincoln said, “I remember my mother’s prayers, and they have followed me; they have clung to me all my life.”

Hudson Taylor told how that the closed door of his mother in the middle of the day meant she was praying for her children.

B. What are the values and truth you want to impart?

Only God Himself fully appreciates the influence of a Christian mother in the molding of character in her children. Someone has said, “Like mother, like children.” Most of the noble characters and fine leaders of history have had good, God-fearing mothers. We are told that George Washington’s mother was pious, and that Sir Walter Scott’s mother was a lover of poetry and music. On the other hand, we are told that Nero’s mother was a murderess and that the dissolute Lord Byron’s mother was a proud and violent woman. The influence of a mother upon the lives of her children cannot be measured. They know and absorb her example and attitudes when it comes to questions of honesty, temperance, kindness, and industry.

<https://billygraham.org/devotion/a-mothers-influence/>

Conclusion

“Having a sincere faith doesn’t imply perfection. But it does imply reality with God. Such faith dwelt in these women; it was at home in them, a comfortable, everyday sort of thing. Sincere faith means that you have sincerely believed in Jesus Christ as your Savior and Lord. It means that you walk in reality with Christ each day, spending time in His Word and in prayer. It means that you confront yourself with Scripture and judge your sin on the thought level. It means that when you do sin against a family member, you ask their forgiveness and seek to work on your weak areas. It means that you develop godly character qualities and attitudes of submission, thankfulness, and joy in the Lord. Your kids will realize that, while mom isn’t perfect, she does walk with God.

Not only are godly mother’s women of sincere faith, but also, they seek to hand off that faith to their children. Hypocritical faith can’t be handed off...But genuine faith is contagious. Timothy’s faith could be traced back through his mother to his grandmother. He could see the Lord in them, and it attracted him to the Lord.”

<https://bible.org/seriespage/lesson-11-influence-godly-mothers-2-timothy-15-314-17>