

SERIES: Mother's Day 2016
SUBJECT: The Birth of Unfeigned Faith

READING: **1Ti 1:5** Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

2Ti 1:5 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.

Introduction:

Today we are celebrating "Mother's Day" We choose this day to honor our mother's and motherhood in general. The first mother was God's Creation from a rib of Adam her husband! Before she became a mother Eve made a horrible mistake as a result of being deceived by Satan appearing as beautiful creature in the Garden where he is simply called the serpent. As a result of her early failure and that of Adam who followed Satan in rebellion against God the act of bearing children became a painful effort. As a further consequence Eve's first son Cain killed his twin brother Abel bringing even more nearly unbearable pain to the first mother of the human race.

Adam and Eve were ultimately forgiven by God and given the privilege to be the progenitor of the human race through the act of procreation!

In addition, God gave mothers the opportunity to influence their children in their most formative years. **The poem by William Ross Wallace paints a mother's role with clarity:**

Blessings on the hand of women!
Angels guard its strength and
grace,

In the palace, cottage, hovel,
Oh, no matter where the place;
Would that never storms
assailed it, Rainbows ever gently curled;
**For the hand that rocks the Cradle Is the hand that
rules the world.**

Infancy's the tender fountain,
Power may with beauty flow,
Mother's first to guide the streamlets, From them souls
unresting grow—
Grow on for the good or evil,
Sunshine streamed or evil hurled;
**For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.**

Woman, how divine your mission
Here upon our natal sod!
Keep, oh, keep the young heart
Open Always to the breath of God!
All true trophies of the ages
Are from mother-love impearled;

**For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.**

Blessings on the hand of women!
Fathers, sons, and daughters cry,
And the sacred song is mingled
With the worship in the sky—
Mingles where no tempest darkens,
Rainbows evermore are hurled;
**For the hand that rocks the cradle
Is the hand that rules the world.**

Many great people have written wonderful accolades of their
mother's influence on their success;

“My mother was the making of me. She was so true, so sure of me; and I felt I had something to live for, someone I must not disappoint.” – Thomas Alva Edison

World renowned neurosurgeon and recent presidential candidate Doctor Ben Carson lays his success in life at the feet of his mother. *Ben's mother repeatedly told her sons that they could do anything anybody else could do, and do it better, if they would only work hard at it. She always had faith in them, and she never accepted excuses. She made none for herself, and would accept none from them--for their own good.*

“My mother taught me about the power of inspiration and courage, and she did it with a strength and a passion that I wish could be bottled.” – Carly Fiorina

The role of mother's are exhausted in the Word of God;

Over the centuries, Moms have been given jobs of great faith.

Mother of Moses

Jochebed was the wife of Amram and the mother of Moses. We learn about her the most in Exodus 2. *Pharaoh commanded the mid-wives to kill all boy Hebrew babies. The mid-wives feared God more and Moses was born anyway. Mothers and fathers have often feared over the future of their children.*

Imagine Jochebed's fears! Moses was born into a super hostile world. Eventually she placed her baby boy in a basket and let him float down the river. He was found by Pharaoh's daughter and spared. Who knows if Jochebed placed him on the river strategically close to Pharaoh's daughter or not.

However, her heart had to have broke as he him floated away from her. Pharaoh's daughter saw a beautiful child and needed some one to nurse him. Jochebed was the woman hired to perform this task. Moses was taught about God during this time. No matter how

hostile the environment a godly woman can teach her children about God.

Mother of Samuel

Hannah was the wife of Elkanah, but she was barren, 1 Samuel

1. She prayed to God for a child.

1Sa 1:11 *And she vowed a vow, and said, O LORD of hosts, if thou wilt indeed look on the affliction of thine handmaid, and remember me, and not forget thine handmaid, but wilt give unto thine handmaid a man child, then I will give him unto the LORD all the days of his life, and there shall no razor come upon his head.*

This woman dedicated her son to the Lord. After he grew she weaned him and took him to Eli. There is no definite age, however we do know this child was very young. 1Sa 2:19 Moreover his mother made him a little coat, and brought it to him from year to year, when she came up with her husband to offer the yearly sacrifice.

Mother of Isaac

The changing of Sarah's name was more than a play with words. Sarah meant mother of nations. Every time someone called Sarah or anytime she introduced herself to someone she was making a statement of faith, calling herself the mother of many nations even before she had a child. By this time she was already 90 years old.

Gen 18:10 *And he said, I will certainly return unto thee according to the time of life; and, lo, Sarah thy wife shall have a son. And Sarah heard it in the tent door, which was behind him.*

Sarah eventually gave birth to Isaac.

Mother of Jesus

Mary the mother of Jesus, although a virgin and promised to marry to Joseph, was with child. She was not asked how she felt about this situation.

God chose Mary and she had to accept what happened. This was during a time where young unmarried pregnant women at that time were stoned.

She was going to have the Savior of the world. During her life she would get to see him grow (Luk 2:52 And Jesus increased in wisdom and stature, and in favour with God and man.

- She saw Him perform miracles
- Gather large crowds
- And boldly proclaim the truth of God's Word.

Our text introduces us to two other mothers;

1Ti 1:5 Now the end of the commandment is charity out of a pure heart, and of a good conscience, and of faith unfeigned:

2Ti 1:5 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.

Many of the famous and influential mothers throughout American history were women of Great Faith! Those I have listed as Biblical mothers were women of **unfeigned faith!**

I want to preach today on **UNFEIGNED FAITH** I begin with this...

I. What is UNFEIGNED FAITH?

- a. Faith is a word that is bandied about a great deal in our president day world. But much of it is false or pretended:

- i. Politicians want us to trust them, to put faith into what they say!
 - 1. They ask us to vote for them because they are going to solve our problems which are legion.
 - 2. They tell us if we put them in office all of the issues that plague our life, our nation, and our world will be history!
 - ii. We put faith in our doctors, we put our lives in their hands only to find out that many of them are more interested in how much our insurance will pay than actually having a desire to heal our diseases!
 - iii. Ministers talk about faith but not the kind we will learn is Unfeigned!
- b. **UNFEIGNED FAITH; Is Real; Sincere; Genuine;**
- i. The Greek word occurs only in the two New Testament verses I have cited!
 - 1. Designative of the moral quality of faith as "the mark of transparency with nothing hidden or nuanced;
 - 2. It the simplicity of soul-the most complete and distinct exponent of a man's character-
 - 3. The natural hypothesis of a pure and good heart-a readiness to believe in goodness"

ii. It carries with it the idea of sincerity, a term used in bible times concerning fired china.

1. In the firing process some of the china would develop hairline cracks; instead of throwing the cracked china out it was discovered that the fine cracks could be filled with wax!
2. After glazing the fine cracks could not be seen unless a candle would be held behind the apparent fine china revealing the cracks as shadows!
3. China without cracked would be called sincere or without cracks!

iii. **UNFEIGNED FAITH** is then a faith that is real. That delivers what it promises, that is what it says it is by demonstration!

II. The Source of UNFEIGNED FAITH;

a. The actual source of **FAITH is God!**

Eph 2:8-9 For by grace are ye saved through faith; and that not of yourselves: it is THE GIFT OF GOD: (9) Not of works, lest any man should boast.

- i. According to the apostle Paul Faith itself given as a gift from God.
- ii. It is a gift that can only be known when it is developed! Consider this example;

When a person hears or reads or studies the Bible God imparts to that person through the words heard, read, or studied faith.

Rom 10:17 So then faith *cometh* by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

When a person comes into contact with Word of God God opens their heart. The process works like this Act 16:14 *And a certain woman named Lydia, a seller of purple, of the city of Thyatira, which worshipped God, heard us: whose heart the Lord opened, that she attended unto the things which were spoken of Paul.*

The word was spoken, faith was imparted, the Lord opened her heart, and Lydia acted!

When she received the gospel she obeyed the word of God and was baptized! Act 16:15 *And when she was baptized, and her household, she besought us, saying, If ye have judged me to be faithful to the Lord, come into my house, and abide there. And she constrained us.*

Had Lydia not believed the word, or did not act on it through the faith God gave her that faith would have died! Jas 2:17 *Even so faith, if it hath not works, is dead, being alone.*

Lydia could have told those she knew she had been given faith by God but without the

evidence of obedience only God would know whether she believed or not!

- b. When Lydia acted out her faith became **UNFEIGNED as was made evident by its demonstration in her life!**
- c. When faith is acted upon it is given life through the indwelling Spirit of God it becomes **UNFEIGNED!**

III. The Legacy of UNFEIGNED FAITH;

- a. Inheritances are passed down from generation to generation, when a person inherits money from their family it is often called old money! Old because it has been in the family for generations!
- b. Timothy's grandmother, Lois, passed her **UNFEIGNED FAITH** as one would pass on a valued heirloom!
 - a. Lois it appears was the first one in her family to trust Christ!
 - i. Her faith was **UNFEIGNED** because she lived it out before her daughter!
 - ii. I believe that to be true because of Paul's observation; 2Ti 1:5 **When I call to remembrance the unfeigned faith that is in thee,**

1. We do not know when Paul first met Timothy but it seems clear that Paul had been able to observe this family for a period of time.
 2. Those who know God and understand the working of sincere faith are able to observe its evidence in the lives of others.
- b. The reality and sincerity of Lois' faith made a mark on her daughter as Eunice saw her mom's faith bring her through hard times quite possibly as a single mother with a gentile name.
- i. Since Lois' husband is not mentioned he may have been out of the picture for any number of reasons.
 - ii. Lois' faith likely being grounded in the Hebrew scriptures taught her that God was to be trusted in both good times and difficult!
 - iii. Her daughter Eunice may have also been raising her son as a single mom because what we know of her husband indicates he was a Gentile!
 1. That being the case when she followed the faith of her mother and purposed to raise their son in the ways of God

her husband may have just done his own thing!

2. It would seem that if he had been a part of this family's faith when his son became an evangelist for Christ he would have been mentioned.
- c. Though that is somewhat speculation **what we do know is that at some point the unfeigned faith of Grandma Lois and mom Eunice bore fruit in Timothy** and at some point all three were led from Judaism to Christianity by Paul who calls him; "...Timothy, my own son in the faith:..."
1Ti 1:2

IV. Perpetuating **UNFEIGNED FAITH**

- a. Mothers do influence their sons and daughters! One of life's greatest blessings is to have a godly mother. And, thus, one of the greatest gifts you can give your children is to be a godly mother.
- b. But, sadly, the thing that is influencing the children in our day is not a godly Grandmother and mother or a godly grandfather and dad it is the "Pop Culture Hero's" that flood our airwaves!
 - i. Pop Singer Prince; Dead OD
 - ii. Chyna female pro wrestler; Dead OD
 - iii. Caitlyn Jenner; She was a he but still has male plumbing!
 - iv. Immodesty and vulgarity have replaced that which made Lois and Eunice beloved parents for God whose values and behavior are clear; *In like manner also, that women*

adorn themselves in modest apparel, with shamefacedness and sobriety; not with broided hair, or gold, or pearls, or costly array; (10) But (which becometh women professing godliness) with good works. 1Ti 2:9-10

- c. Still worse are the Grandmothers and Mothers who not only encourage their children to emulate those ungodly influential people **but who themselves are examples of the disgusting behavior we have come to accept as normal if not desirable behavior.**
 - i. Mothers and grandmothers that introduce their children and grandchildren to drugs, sex, and alcohol.
 - ii. Those who **Perpetuate** this culture of ungodly behavior!
 - iii. A week or so back I was aghast when I was watching the news and they were showing the Obama's disembarking Air Force One and the eldest daughter was walking down the steps and her dress hem was mid-way up her thigh! **Call me old fashioned but if my daughters dress was that short I would have had a talk with them about modesty!**
- d. I am calling on you here today who are Grandmothers and mothers to purpose to live **UNFEIGNED FAITH.**
 - i. They see too much faith in word and not enough in deed!

- ii. Let your children and grandchildren see what with God's help what it means live a faith and a lifestyle (*which becometh women professing godliness*) with good works!
- iii. I want the young people of Calvary to know modesty, to see **UNFEIGNED FAITH** influencing our behavior so we can Perpetuate what Lois and Eunice started@

Conclusion:

Through faith in God and by honoring His Word, godly mothers and grandmothers can and should have great influence as they train their children and grandchildren in the most holy faith.

Having **UNFEIGNED 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 lifestyle.

UNFEIGNED 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 every level; thought, word, and deed!
- 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.

You need to be careful not to assume that just because your five-year-old “asked Jesus into his heart” that he is truly saved. **He may be, but he may not be.** Look for evidence of genuine conversion:

- Is he sorry about his sin and sensitive to it?
- Does he show a growing love for God and His Word?
- Does he want to talk about the things of God?
- Does he want to please God with his life?

It seems to me that “**easy believism,**” among children and adults **is a major danger of the modern evangelical church.**

Invitation:

Maybe you feel like a failure as a mother. Where do you start?

- God always honors repentance. Turn back to Him. Confess your failures begin to exercise **UNFEIGNED FAITH.**
- Begin to obey God and trust His word where you're at.
- Even if your children are grown, God will honor your repentance. Go to them and ask their forgiveness for failing to be an example of godliness or for failing to train them in God's ways.
- God can use you as He used Lois, a grandmother and Eunice a Godly mom in Timothy's life.
- Walk with God in **UNFEIGNED FAITH.**

One final thought for you children and grandchildren; **you have two opportunities before you both with serious consequences;**

1. Break the chain of **Perpetuated UNFEIGNED FAITH and follow the ways of this present world!**
 - a. In so doing you will break the heart of a godly mother or grandmother!
 - b. You will reap on yourself consequences that will degrade if not destroy your life!
 - c. **Like the prodigal son Luke 15:16 *And he would fain have filled his belly with the husks that the swine did eat: and no man gave unto him.***
 - d. **You will eventually be broken and alone living an ungodly lifestyle that will destroy others!**

2. **Or begin a chain of Perpetuated UNFEIGNED FAITH;**
 - a. You may have been raised in a faith less **home but surrendering to God through Christ; growing in the Word of God and living UNFEIGNED FAITH;**
 - b. In so doing you will set an example for others to follow!

 - c. Like the prodigal you can be **the family member that leads others to the father's house;** Luk 15:17-20 ***And when he came to himself, (and realized that the world's ways destroy) he said, How many hired servants of my father's have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger! (18) I will arise and go to my father, and will say unto him, Father, I have sinned against heaven, and before thee, (19) And am no more worthy to be called thy son: make me as one of thy hired servants. (20) And he arose, and came home to his father. But when he was yet a great way off, his father saw him, and had compassion, and ran, and fell on his neck, and kissed him.***

- d. You will find God's blessings attending your efforts;
- e. You will be mighty in influencing our nation and even world history for Jesus' sake.