

A Godly Mother – I Remember Mama

2 Timothy 1:2-7 New King James Version

2 To Timothy, a beloved son: Grace, mercy, and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve with a pure conscience, as *my* forefathers *did*, as without ceasing I remember you in my prayers night and day, 4 greatly desiring to see you, being mindful of your tears, that I may be filled with joy, 5 when I call to remembrance the genuine faith that is in you, which dwelt first in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am persuaded is in you also. 6 Therefore I remind you to stir up the gift of God which is in you through the laying on of my hands. 7 For God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power and of love and of a sound mind.

Introduction:

I Remember Mama... *"I remember the big white house on Steiner Street, and my little sister Dagmar, and my big brother Nels, and Papa. But most of all, I remember Mama."*

Mama was the story of a Norwegian-American family living in San Francisco in 1910. The story is told through the eyes of daughter Katrin (Rosemary Rice). The show opened looking through the pages of the family album and remembering.

In 1956 they cancelled Mama but popular support from the public brought it back for a 13 week run on Sunday afternoons from December to March of 1957.

Sadly, except for that last 13 weeks, Mama was telecast live rather than filmed and so we have no taped record of the show.

Gone are the days of *Little House on the Prairie*, *Father Knows Best*, and *I Remember Mama*. Nielsen's ratings tell us we would rather see Desperate Housewives or Sex In The City, or Everybody Loves Raymond where mom's are vulgar, immoral, or ridiculed and vilified.

On This Mother's Day, 93rd Mother's Day

Mother's Day, United States holiday celebrated on second Sunday in May; children honor their mothers with cards, gifts, flowers; first observance in Philadelphia, Pa., 1907, based on suggestions by Julia Ward Howe in 1872 and Anna Jarvis in 1907; national observance dates from 1914.

Mother's Day, first observed in 1908, was recognized officially by Congress and the President in 1914. It is celebrated in honor of the nation's mothers on the second Sunday in May. Mother's Day is one of the holidays that have been designated by Presidential proclamations.

Mothers come in all different shapes and sizes. No one teaches you how to be a Mother. We don't even get to choose our mothers. But the Lord can "teach" us how to be a Godly Mother if we ask Him to.

Many mothers are Single mothers, some have adopted Children, some are widows raising children alone, some have joint custody but the child may live with the father or they get to see their children every other weekend.

For some of you Mother's Day may be a very difficult day. You might have lost a child to an early tragic death, you may have given up your child for adoption and never even held him or her in your arms. Maybe you had an abortion and Mother's Day is a day that brings back memories and haunts you. But you may also be a women whose heart breaks every Mother's Day because you have not been able to conceive or have endured many miscarriages. Your arms are empty and they ache.

**Regardless of your experience of motherhood,
WE HONOR YOU. WE REMEMBER MAMA!**

Though our text in Ephesians has no direct comments about mothers I want to extend Ephesians to 2 Timothy chapter 1 where Paul commends the godly character of Timothy's mother and grandmother. I want to call your attention this morning to the importance of a godly mother.

I. The Impact of a godly Mother's Heart

II The Influence of a godly Mother's Heart

III. The Imprint of a godly Mother's Heart

Turn with me to 2 Timothy chapter 1 reading verses 2-7

I. The Impact of a Godly Mother

Timothy was forever impacted early in life by the godliness and prayers of his mother and grandmother.

We are reminded in this passage of the...

1. Significance of Timothy's Mother

Paul and Timothy (Timothy's mother and grandmother)

2 Timothy 1:2-7, Timothy ended in Ephesus, same city as John, and Jesus mother.

A young disciple who was Paul's companion in many of his journeyings. His mother, Eunice, and his grandmother, Lois, are mentioned as eminent for their piety (2 Tim. 1:5). We know nothing of his father but that he was a Greek (Acts 16:1).

He is first brought into notice at the time of Paul's second visit to Lystra (16:2), where he probably resided, and where it seems he was converted during Paul's first visit to that place (1 Tim. 1:2; 2 Tim. 3:11). The apostle having formed a high opinion of his "*own son in the faith*," arranged that he should become his companion (Acts 16:3), and took and circumcised him, so that he might conciliate the Jews.

He was designated to the office of an evangelist (1 Tim. 4:14), and went with Paul in his journey through Phrygia, Galatia, and Mysia; also to Troas and Philippi and Berea (Acts 17:14). Thence he followed Paul to Athens, and was sent by him with Silas on a mission to Thessalonica (17:15; 1 Thess. 3:2).

We next find him at Corinth (1 Thess. 1:1; 2 Thess. 1:1) with Paul. He passes now out of sight for a few years, and is **again noticed as with the apostle at Ephesus (Acts 19:22)**, whence he is sent on a mission into Macedonia. He accompanied Paul afterwards into Asia (20:4), where he was with him for some time.

When the apostle was a prisoner at Rome, Timothy joined him (Phil. 1:1), where it appears he also suffered imprisonment (Heb. 13: 23). During the apostle's second imprisonment he wrote to Timothy, asking him to rejoin him as soon as possible, and to bring with him certain things which he had left at Troas, his cloak and parchments (2 Tim. 4:13).

According to tradition, after the apostle's death **he settled in Ephesus** as his sphere of labor, and there found a martyr's grave – **along with apostle John, and Mary.**

2. Significance of Jesus' Mother

Began and ended his ministry with a glimpse of his mother.

It is no accident that the gospel accounts of Jesus' life and ministry begin with his mother. His father is briefly mentioned in the beginning of Jesus' life and he is seen again when Jesus was about twelve years old as Jesus was teaching at the temple. (Luke 2:47) After this Jesus' father disappears from the pages of the gospels. We can only speculate about his disappearance. However, it is no coincidence that the gospel accounts of Jesus' life end with Jesus' mother weeping at the foot of the cross.

John 2:5 Turning water into wine. "Whatever he tells you, do."

John 19:25-27 – At the foot of the cross

3. The Significance of Samuel's Mother, Moses' Mother, etc.

Samuel's Mother, Hannah, Moses' Mother, Jochebed (Ex 6:20)

John MacArthur on the absence of mother in the Eli story

Never a name of a mother mentioned in the family of Eli and look at the price.

Ichabod: *The glory of the Lord is departed.*

Dorie, The Girl Nobody Loved

The heart-wrenching story of the Girl Nobody Loved, Doris VanStone

Alliance Missionary to the Baliem Valley, the Dani tribespeople.

Read a section. Tell the outline of the story. Page 11

When my father and my mother forsake me, then the LORD will take me up. - Psalms 27:10

Now also when I am old and gray headed, O God, forsake me not; until I have shown your strength unto *this* generation, *and* your power to every one *that* is to come. Psalms 71:18

II The Influence of a Mother

Timothy was forever guided by the godly influence of his mother and grandmother.

“From a child you have known the holy Scripture which are able to make you wise unto salvation.” - 2 Timothy 3:15

1. Edwards Family Generations – 1400 descendants

A.E. Winship contended [in a study of the family],

“And much of the capacity and talent, intensity and character, of more than 1400 of the Edwards family is due to Mrs. Edwards.”

And the 1200 descendants of a criminal family known as Jukes Family.

THE JUKES FAMILY

A careful search has been made into the history of one of the most criminal families known, the Jukes family. Of the total of 1,200 descendants that have been traced some 400 were physically self-wrecked, 310 were professional paupers, 130 were convicted criminals, 60 were habitual thieves and pick-pockets, and another 7 were murderers! Through the centuries only 20 ever learned a trade, and of these half of them learned their trade in prison.

By 1900 when A.E. Winship made his study, the marriage of Jonathan and Sarah had produced...

- ?? 13 college presidents;
- ?? 65 professors;
- ?? 100 lawyers and
- ?? a dean of an outstanding law school;
- ?? 30 judges;
- ?? 66 physicians;
- ?? 80 holders of public office
 - 3 U. S. senators,
 - 3 mayors of large cities,
 - 3 governors of states,
 - a vice president of the United States and
 - a controller of the U.S. Treasury}.

Members of the family wrote 135 books and edited 18 journals and periodicals. They entered the ministry in platoons and sent 100 missionaries overseas, as well as stocking many mission boards with lay trustees.

Yet all this achievement came out of a family with no large inherited fortune. Has any other mother contributed more vitality to the leadership of a nation?

2. Jonathan Edward's Family & Wife

His Marriage to Sarah – *Train up a child in the way he should go and when he is old he will not depart from it. Prov. 22:6*

(See article A Godly Mother, by By Keith L. Estes)

Samuel Hopkins, who spent many months with the family recalled of Sarah as a mother: "She had an excellent way of governing the children she knew how to make them regard and obey cheerfully, without loud angry words, much less heavy blows. She seldom punished them; and in speaking to them used gentle and pleasant words,... Her system of discipline was begun at a very early age and it was her rule to resist the first, as well as every subsequent exhibition of temper or disobedience in the child...wisely reflecting that until a child will obey his parents he can never be brought to obey God."... "For [her children] she constantly and earnestly prayed and bore them on her heart before God...and that even before they were born."

What George Whitefield said about Sarah Edwards

A sweeter Couple I have not yet seen ... She ... talked feelingly and solidly of the Things of God, and seemed to be such a Help meet for her Husband that she caused me to ... [pray] God, that he would be pleased to send me a Daughter of Abraham to be my wife. (1971: 80).

At his deathbed, America's finest theologian saved his dying words for his beloved wife:

"...give my kindest leave (love) to my dear wife and tell her that the uncommon union which has so long existed between us has been of such a nature as I trust is spiritual and therefore will continue forever; and I hope she will be supported under so great a trial and submit cheerfully to the will of God." he said.

Sarah's response to her husband's death

"O my very Dear Child, What shall I say. A holy and good God has covered us with a dark cloud. O that we may all kiss the rod and lay our hands on our mouths. The Lord has done it. He has made me adore his goodness that we had him so long. But my God lives and he has my heart. O what a legacy my husband and your father has left us. We are all given to God and there I am and love to be. (In Burr, Journal, 301. as quoted by Moore in Good Christians, Good Husbands?, p.126)"

Sarah and he had just lost a daughter and son-in-law. Sarah fell ill of dysentery while on a visit to collect her grandchildren to raise with her own younger children. Just six months after Jonathan's death, she joined him in the grave.

III. The Imprint of a Mother's Heart

Timothy was forever imprinted with the faith of his mother and grandmother.

The fourth century saint, **Augustine**, wrote a prayer concerning his mother which reads, "My Mother, your faithful servant, wept to You for me, shedding more tears for my spiritual death than others shed for the bodily death of a son. You heard her."

Thomas Edison Story

"I ask you, who was greater, Thomas A. Edison or his mother?" When he was a young lad his teacher sent him home with a note which said, 'Your child is dumb. We can't do anything for him.' Mrs. Edison wrote back, 'You do not understand my boy. I will teach him myself'. And she did, with results that are well known.

Abraham Lincoln

"No man is poor who has had a Godly Mother."

Amy Carmichael, a great missionary influence in India, heard the call of God to "go ye." Her mother wrote these words to her: "God has lent you to me all these years, I can trust you to Him and I do. Go ye." Amy, though in a wheel chair, went, and became a great missionary, poet, and hymn writer in her time.

George Washington, the first president of the United States, wrote of his mother, "All that I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my successes in life to the moral, intellectual, and physical education I received from her."

(ie) I Remember My Mama

Conclusion:

I heard about a little boy sitting on his front steps with his face cradled in his hands, looking so forlorn. His dad came home just then & asked him what was wrong. The little boy looked up & said, "Well, just between us, Dad, I'm having trouble getting along with your wife, too!"

A Mom's ministry is one of the toughest assignments God ever gave anybody! She's got to be as insightful as a psychologist, tough as a marine corps drill instructor, gentle as a nurse, strong as an ox, without looking like one. She's got to be a negotiator a teacher, a doctor, an electrician, a plumber and a carpenter, a cook, a firefighter, a lover, a confidant, and a prayer warrior.

It requires an **endless supply of energy**, a **massive amount of patience**, and **iron will**, and recognition of the fact that if she ever gets sick, she's got to get well before the end of the school day.

NIV - 2 Timothy 1:2-7 NIV

To Timothy, my dear son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3. I thank God, whom I serve, as my forefathers did, with a clear conscience, as night and day I constantly remember you in my prayers. 4. Recalling your tears, I long to see you, so that I may be filled with joy. 5. I have been 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. 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 did not give us a spirit of timidity, but a spirit of power, of love and of self-discipline.

KJV - 2 Timothy 1:2-7 KJV

2 To Timothy, *my* dearly beloved son: Grace, mercy, *and* peace, from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord. 3 I thank God, whom I serve from *my* forefathers with pure conscience, that without ceasing I have remembrance of thee in my prayers night and day; 4 Greatly desiring to see thee, being mindful of thy tears, that I may be filled with joy; 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. 6 Wherefore I put thee in remembrance that thou stir up the gift of God, which is in thee by the putting on of my hands. 7 For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind. 8 Be not thou therefore ashamed of the testimony of our Lord, nor of me his prisoner: but be thou partaker of the afflictions of the gospel according to the power of God;