

ARBC – A Mom’s Priorities

Tim Hinds

Sunday, May 8, 2011

Father we thank you for this morning, we want to give you glory and praise because you are everything. If there are people here that don’t recognize that, we want that. Your word tells us that every knee shall bow and every tongue will confess; hide me behind this cross and speak to your people. Amen.

We have a bunch of folks out of town; let me give you a few praises. We surpassed the Annie Armstrong goal! Next Sunday night the children will present a musical called GPS. You want to be here for that.

Happy Mother’s Day! I want to share an encouraging word to you mothers. Some of us that have children that are grown, and have grandchildren we can help these children as well.

Remember Timothy was mentored by Paul and taught to be a teacher. We will begin in Timothy.

2 Timothy 3:14: But you must continue in the things which you have learned and been assured of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

When Lynn and I lived in Florida for a few years we met a lot of folks. People that were wealthy and would pay millions of dollars for a project they were working on. There was one man that was important and busy but my point is I remember when we had little children and they would wake up early in the morning and mostly Lynn would get up. Your day may start early and go to around 12 midnight. You mothers that are raising children have a great task in front of you. As exceptional as my wife was, there are many here this morning and I want you to consider what our priorities should be as mothers. God has given you a limited window to make a difference on this planet. Not just here but worldwide. The opportunity only exists during that time.

Generations tend to go downward. I remember seeing the progression as a child to where we are today. “What the father does in moderation, become the excesses of the son”.

One sows the wind, the other reaps the tornado. If we want to make a difference for good, we have a brief window to change this world. I want to introduce you to two ladies that did that.

2 Timothy 1:1-4

1:1 Paul, an apostle of Christ Jesus by the will of God, according to the promise of life in Christ Jesus,

1:2 To Timothy, my beloved son: Grace, mercy and peace from God the Father and Christ Jesus our Lord.

1:3 I thank God, whom I serve with a clear conscience the way my forefathers did, as I constantly remember you in my prayers night and day,

1:4 longing to see you, even as I recall your tears, so that I may be filled with joy.
Paul was saying how much he missed Timothy. Paul continues in verse 5

1:5 For I am mindful of the sincere faith within you, (where did that faith begin?) which first dwelt in your grandmother Lois and your mother Eunice, and I am sure that it is in you as well.

Paul is saying you had these 2 great ladies that taught you God's word from your childhood. Notice there are missing men. Paul talks about Lois and Eunice.

Throughout the letter Paul talks about the pastor and how he loves and teaches his people. I want you to look at:

3:13 But evil men and impostors (preachers that are not real) will proceed from bad to worse, deceiving and being deceived.

As I think about growing up and watching TV evangelists and where that has progressed; from bad to worse.

3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

He learned them from Grandmother and mother.

3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Now, do you think these ladies had a lot on their plates? I know you are busy and have a lot on your plates. But think of the persecution they had that we don't have. People were dying for their faith. People were hostile. Paul was in prison and about to be killed for his belief. Most commentators have said they don't believe Timothy's father and grandfather were Christians. We would call that today a dysfunctional family. He had the Jewish and Greek culture. You will see the men are not mentioned in the passage. Paul talks about the faith he had and was brought by these women. They impacted their children and grandchildren. As they grew Timothy up in the ways of the Lord, as we invest in the lives of our children we will make an impact.

How do we invest in our children spiritually?

We look first at Godly mothers. Godly Mothers Explain Truth

You must convince our children.

3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

Lois and Eunice persuaded Timothy to believe in the Lord. The Greek word is Pisto - to make trustworthy, to establish, to firmly be persuaded to be assured of. A child raised by a Godly Christian woman is not tossed about; they are deeply worded in the truth.

Colossians 1:23

1:23 continues in the faith, grounded and steadfast, and are not moved away from the hope of the gospel.

When you raise your children to know God and His word, they have roots planted. They have a strong foundation.

In 1 Peter 3:15 says;

Always being ready to make a defense to everyone who asks you to give an account for the hope that is in you,

There is a point when you say “I know my savior lives because he lives within my heart” that is a true statement but may not be enough for your children.

As we take it to another step, we must put actions to that.

Acts 1:3 To these He also presented Himself alive after His suffering, by many convincing proofs, speaking of the things concerning the kingdom of God.

As our children grow up, we must over time, as Paul said in

3:15 and that from childhood you have known the sacred writings which are able to give you the wisdom that leads to salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus. (Even when the baby is in the womb, to read scripture out loud; as the baby is born, to continue that. You are putting fertilizer and water, and making a foundation for that child.)

Two mistakes I see today: Not starting early enough from childhood and then we stop too soon. Too often I see parents take the children and take them to school and drop them and say here are my children they are messed up, you fix them. Sunday school teachers we see the same thing. You drop them off and say “here is Johnny, and he is messed up; I don’t know what to do with them, you fix him”. That is your responsibility as a parent. You must be at work raising your child. If you see how Paul says in 15 “from their childhood we must begin early”.

You say you have never been to seminary how can I teach them? You don’t have to know

everything, just be a week ahead. You will find yourself praying, saying what will I say next? God will grow and mature you as you take that responsibility.

We tend to contract life out. We do. We don't want to clean our houses so we contract it out. We call Kay, can you come over and clean my house? That was a plug for you, Kay. We don't want to mow our lawns so we contract it out. We don't want to walk our dogs, so we pay the neighbor kid. We contract our stuff out. Then when our children don't turn out as Godly young people, we say it is the contractors fault. No it is the parents fault. God holds us accountable. We must make an impact and invest the truth to our children.

A Godly Mother Must Exhibit the Truth

3:14 You, however, continue in the things you have learned and become convinced of, knowing from whom you have learned them,

You can dissect this two ways. First learned Timothy from Eunice and Lois and we know that God speaks to us and teaches us. We learned that God has taught us and has grown us up.

Luke 6:40 "A pupil is not above his teacher; but everyone, after he has been fully trained, will be like his teacher."

Moms, (dads your day is coming so hang on); what kind of teacher are you? Your child will grow up and follow you. The scripture tells us they may depart but will come back.

John Maxwell said this. "I teach what I know, I reproduce what I am."

You can stand in front of a class and reproduce what you learned in a book. But people around me will know that we will reproduce ourselves. People ask what does that look like?

Suzanna Wesley was a great mother of 19 children. Two of them you may know, John & Charles Wesley the founders of the Methodist Church. One of her prayers gives a glimpse into her faith...

"Help me, Lord, to remember that religion is not to be confined to the church, or closet, nor exercised only in prayer and meditation, but that everywhere I am in Your presence...May all things instruct me and afford me an opportunity of exercising some goodness and daily learning and growing toward Your likeness."

That doesn't mean we are going to be as perfect as Jesus in this world, we need to grow and become more like him, but have a moral authority to our children. For God to forgive us, use us, and to reconcile us back to him.

I want to close with this. Suppose someone walked through the door with the deadly Anthrax poisoning. I tell you don't worry I have the cure, but I drop dead after taking it. You would not trust me, but suppose I had it and it worked but I failed to give it to you. Would the fact that you

could see it have an effect on you? No, as parents you need to explain to our children and we need to live a life of good Godly examples to show what we say is true and made a difference in us. You have to say it and live it.

How would the world be different if you left today? You need to stay a week ahead of your children so they can continue in their spiritual growth. We need to invest the truth of God's word. Mothers, what a wonderful example with these two ladies. The importance for us to be not just tellers but doers of the word. We will make a difference together.

Let's Pray.

Father I pray that you move in the hearts of us all. Make corrections where we have gone wrong. As a church family, help us to love, support the children around us but the buck starts and stops at home. Whatever the need is in our lives, church I will ask you to quietly stand and our worship team will sing, and you can sing as well. What a great prayer to say the words, but to put action to these words. Will you follow Him and make a change in your life today? In Jesus name, amen.

(Singing...Words on Large Overhead Screen)

Pastor Tim: Mothers, fathers, will you follow him? Will you turn away from the world?

Amen, thank you for your presence today. Take the moms out to lunch; you are getting out a bit early. Thank you for your presence. Thank God. There are no services tonight, enjoy your time and God bless you all.

Man praying (Cannot hear him/her)