

Motherhood:
Sowing Seeds for a Lifetime

TALKINGPOINTS WALKINGPOINTS



A publication of DISCIPLE, the adult discipleship ministry of Triangle Community Church.

Talk together about the glory of God's kingdom. –Psalm 145:11
Love the Lord your God and **walk** in all his ways. –Joshua 22:5

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Questions for Reflection and Discussion

- What from Sunday's message interested you? ...made sense to you? ...confused you?
...intrigued you? ...upset you? ...encouraged you? ...and **why**?
- Pastor Doug spoke of four "seeds" Timothy's mother planted in his life—which grew into fruitful qualities.
Which of those "seeds" do you think is most lacking in American families today?
Which problems in America do you think would be solved if that one "seed" were sown more abundantly?
If you could "plant" **only one** of those in your children's lives, which one would it be? Why **that** one?
Which of those "seeds" did you experience growing up? Would you tell us about it?
Which one of those "seeds" do you wish would have been more present in your family of origin?
- As an adult, which of those four "seeds" have you succeeded in cultivating in your life?
Tell us a bit about the journey you've been on thus far—some successes as well as some failures.
Which **one** of those "seeds" do you **most** need to sow more extensively in your life today?
How can we help you make progress with that?

Points of Application

For Moms...

- Focus on becoming a woman who walks daily with God and draws upon his wisdom and strength.
- Purposefully plant seeds in your children's lives.

For Dads...

- Pursue your walk with God and seek to model a godly life before your children.
- Express your gratitude to your wife for the pivotal role she plays in your family and beyond.

For All of Us...

- If your mom is still living, be sure to express your gratitude for the role she played in your life.
- Because none of us are perfect, forgive for those areas where you feel she has fallen short.

Sermon Summary (Key Text: 2 Timothy 1:1-7 & 3:14-17)

Not all of our childhood memories are pleasant, but of those that are, many likely revolve around our mothers. Today we'll look in the Scriptures at a godly mother who helped mold a young pastor named Timothy. His mother planted seeds that blossomed. Timothy had been mentored by the Apostle Paul, and the letters of 1st and 2nd Timothy were written to encourage this young pastor. As 2 Timothy opens, Paul is at the end of his life, shackled in a dark, smelly, cold prison, yet it is one of the warmest letters. In 2 Timothy we see a forest of qualities emerging from **four seeds planted by Timothy's mother**.

1. Transparent Tenderness (1:4) Timothy wasn't ashamed to show emotion; Timothy's tears made an indelible impression upon Paul. Tenderness like this tends to be cultivated by example, rather than by precept. It is caught rather than taught. I grew up in a culture that sent the message that boys don't cry. They are to be tough, not tender. It is a great mistake to view toughness and tenderness as mutually exclusive qualities. Jesus and King David were both tough and tender (1 Samuel 20:4 & Luke 19:41). Moms and dads—how often do your children see you being vulnerable and tender? If they don't, where will they learn these qualities?

2. A Genuine Faith (1:5) Timothy's faith had an authentic quality to it that was first modeled for him by his grandmother, and then by his mom. Parenting impacts generations yet to come; sincere faith was passed down from one generation to the next. Timothy was surrounded by fakes, phonies, and charlatans (3:13), so Paul exhorted him to continue in the faith which he learned in his childhood (3:14-15). Timothy had a great foundation. He started well; now it was time to finish strong. Parents, if you want your children to have a genuine, authentic faith, you have to have one yourselves and then you have to live it out before them.

3. A Model of Godly Character (1:6-7) Timid Timothy needed to be reminded about two very important things: to not neglect the exercise of his God-given spiritual gifts, and that God has not given him a spirit of timidity, but of power and love and discipline. "Power" conveys the idea of inner confidence or courage that takes full stock of one's situation, reflects upon one's God-given abilities, takes note of one's personal deficiencies, and then draws upon the inexhaustible resources of God! Timothy apparently was experiencing a period of personal withdrawal and self-doubt, so Paul gave him positive encouragement that was based upon strengths that he knew Timothy possessed. Are you helping your children develop inner confidence by pointing them to their big God and the strengths he's given them? God also has endowed us with supernatural, unselfish agape love. No one wears the fabric of selfless love quite as naturally, as purely, and as elegantly as do moms! Finally, God has given us the spiritual fruit of self-control. Discipline doesn't automatically blossom in a child; it must be planted early in life and lovingly cultivated over the years if a child is ever to internalize that discipline and translate it into self-control.

4. A Reverence for the Scriptures (3:14-15) Timothy was weaned on the Bible. Because Timothy had a non-believing father, the onus for Timothy's faith instruction fell upon his mother's shoulders. The Old Testament was her textbook for parenting (v. 16-17). Do you want your children to be equipped for whatever life brings them? Then make the Bible the centerpiece of your parenting. Dwell in this book. Apply its principles in your home. Referencing the Scriptures should be as natural as breathing.

Over the years many moms have followed Timothy's mother's example. Happy Mother's Day, Moms! We love you and appreciate the critical role that you play in society. And more personally, how you have helped shape us!

Digging Deeper in Your Daily Quiet Time

"An excellent *ishshah*, who can find?"

The Hebrew word, *ishshah*, means "woman", but the context of Proverbs 31 makes it clear that this particular woman is also both a wife and a mother.

Whether you're married or not, let's see what it takes to make an excellent *ishshah*.

Each day this week, read Proverbs 31:10-31 and write down everything you observe about the excellent woman. If you are a woman, are you growing in these forms of excellence? If you're a man, are you appreciating the women in your life?

Proverbs 31

- ¹⁰ An excellent wife, who can find? For her worth is far above pearls.
- ¹¹ The heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain.
- ¹² She deals bountifully with him for good and not evil all the days of her life.
- ¹³ She searches for wool and flax and works with her hands in delight.
- ¹⁴ She is like merchant ships; she brings her food from afar.
- ¹⁵ And she rises while it is still night, and gives food to her household and a portion to her young women.
- ¹⁶ She makes plans for a field and buys it; from the fruit of her hands she plants a vineyard.
- ¹⁷ She girds herself with strength and makes her arms strong.
- ¹⁸ She senses that her gain is good; her lamp does not go out at night.
- ¹⁹ She stretches out her hands to the distaff, and her hands hold fast the spindle.
- ²⁰ She extends her hand to the poor, and she stretches out her hands to the needy.
- ²¹ She is not afraid of the snow for her household, for all her household are clothed with scarlet.
- ²² She makes coverings for herself; her clothing is fine linen and purple.
- ²³ Her husband is known in the gates, when he sits with the elders of the land.
- ²⁴ She makes linen garments and sells them, and gives belts to the tradesmen.
- ²⁵ Strength and majesty are her clothing, and she smiles at the future.
- ²⁶ She opens her mouth in wisdom, and the instruction of lovingkindness is on her tongue.
- ²⁷ She watches over the ways of her household, and does not eat the bread of idleness.
- ²⁸ Her children rise up and bless her; as for her husband, he also praises her, saying:
- ²⁹ "Many daughters have done excellently, but you have gone above them all."
- ³⁰ Charm is deceitful and beauty is vain, but a woman who fears Yahweh, she shall be praised.
- ³¹ Give to her from the fruit of her hands, and let her works praise her in the gates.



It's time for you to appreciate the women in your life! Saturday night, after six days of meditating on Proverbs 31, go back over your list of observations and jot down examples of each quality from the women in your life. Make sure the examples are specific and concrete. (You'll have to think creatively for 21st century equivalents to some of these praise-worthy attributes.) Now, bless the women in your life by sharing your list with her (and, if you have them, with your children).

Thank God for them; you've been enriched by them!