

Two Mothers, Two Children

Eunice—Mother of Timothy

Eunice – Acts 16:1-3

- **Acts 16:1**
 - Jewish
 - A Christian
 - Mother of Timothy, who also was a Christian
 - Her husband was Greek—a Gentile
- **Acts 16:2** – Despite his mixed family, Timothy was a faithful Christian respected in the area churches
- **Acts 16:3** – Paul was so impressed with Timothy that he wanted him to work with him among the Jews, requiring that Timothy be circumcised.

Eunice – 2 Timothy

- Eunice in 2 Timothy 1:3-5
 - **1:3-4** – Timothy’s faithfulness came to mean a great deal to Paul
 - **1:5** – Timothy’s faithfulness was due to Eunice **raising him to have faith in Christ**, as Lois had done for her
- Eunice in 2 Timothy 3:14-15
 - Eunice’s labor to teach Timothy the scriptures is implied
 - These would have been the OT scriptures that laid the firm foundation for faith in Christ – Gal. 3:24

Eunice – A Mother who...

- Truly committed herself to raising her child to know and serve the Lord
- Was rewarded for her efforts with a spiritually faithful son who was a valuable servant in God's kingdom
- Was able to accomplish this work without her husband's support
- Is worthy of our admiration and is an example to follow

Herodias—Mother of Salome

Herodias

- **Josephus** confirms the Bible's account of Herodias, adding that her daughter's name was Salome.
- **Herodias – Mk. 6:14-28**
 - Left Philip to marry Herod, Philip's half brother
 - When confronted with her sin, she reacted with vindictiveness and hatred and held a grudge
 - Willing to use manipulation to get her husband to do as she wanted
 - Willing to make her daughter an accomplice in murder

Herodias taught Salome...

- Marriage and faithfulness are not sacred
- Hatred, holding a grudge, and vindictiveness are acceptable attitudes to harbor
- Manipulation is a useful tool to get one's way
- How to pervert and defile wholesome sexual attraction through immodesty and lasciviousness (i.e., in dance).
- Power over others is to be brutally used for selfish ends
- There is nothing sacred about innocent human life

Points of Interest

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- The **outcome** of their efforts:
 - **Eunice's** efforts resulted in Timothy being a faithful and honored Christian – Phil. 2:19-22
 - **Herodias'** efforts resulted in Salome being a lascivious, dishonorable, murderous, callous young woman!
- How these women will be **remembered**:
 - **Eunice** is remembered with respect and admiration, a model for raising godly children
 - **Herodias** is remembered with disgust for her evil and vindictive ways, resulting in a hardened and ungodly daughter.

Points of Interest

- How these two mothers **feel *now*** about their efforts:
 - The dead continue to live and be conscious after this life – Lk. 16:19-31
 - **Eunice** now lives in Paradise and enjoys **great satisfaction** and **joy** for her efforts.
 - **Herodias** lives with **extreme regret** in **torment**.
- **Could it get any better for Eunice or any worse for Herodias?**

Applications and Exhortations

- I want mothers (and fathers) to know that raising children in the Lord's way is one of *the most important duties of your life* – Titus 2:3-5; Eph. 6:4
- I want you to remember that though toys, activities, sports, and grades are important...
 - To put these before preparing your child for eternity will result in eternal regret!
 - Salome had much, but lost everything!
 - Timothy, raised in a more modest living situation, inherited eternal life!

A Word To Mothers

- William Lipscomb, **Gospel Advocate**, September 1857

“Each mother is an historian. She writes not the history of empires or of nations on paper, but she writes her own history on the imperishable mind of her child. That tablet and that history will remain indelible when time shall be no more. That history each mother will meet again, and read with eternal joy or unutterable grief in the far coming ages of eternity. This thought should weigh on the mind of every mother, and render her deeply circumspect, and prayerful, and faithful in her solemn work of training up her children for heaven and immortality. The minds of children are very susceptible, and easy impressed...”

A Word To Mothers

“...There you write impressions for the everlasting good or ill of your child, which neither the floods nor the storms of earth can wash out, nor death’s cold fingers erase, nor the slow-moving ages of eternity obliterate. How careful then, should each mother be of her treatment of her child. How prayerful, and how serious, and how earnest to write the eternal truths of God on his mind—those truths which shall be his guide and teacher when her voice shall be silent in death, and her lips no longer move in prayer in his behalf, in commending her dear child to her covenant God.”

Conclusion

- I hope I have challenged you to ask yourself, “How am I raising my children?”
- Are you following the example of...
 - **Eunice** by instilling a love, devotion, and respect for God’s word that will bless them eternally and give you eternal satisfaction?
 - **Herodias** by instilling in them worldly values and ungodly attitudes that destroy the soul and will bring you eternal regret?
- Will you determine to do what is right today?