

## Women of the New Testament – Lesson 11: Lois and Eunice

**Mark 9:37** Whosoever shall receive one of such children in my name, receiveth me: and whosoever shall receive me, receiveth not me, but him that sent me.

### Did we learn our lesson? Study Questions from Lesson 10 (Lydia)

1. According to Acts 16:14, how did Lydia earn a living?

*Answer: She was a seller of purple (travelling merchant).*

2. According to Acts 16:14, where is Lydia from?

*Answer: The town of Thyatira (Asia Minor – modern day Turkey).*

3. According to Acts 16:14, who opened Lydia's heart?

*Answer: The Lord (as she heard Paul witness).*

4. According to Acts 16:15, what was Lydia's first act after hearing the gospel?

*Answer: To be baptized (she then led her household to the Lord and ministered to Paul).*

5. Complete the following scripture:

**John 13:15** For I have given you an example, that ye should do as I have done to you.

### True / False

**False** Satan seeks to promote (defend) humanity (REV 12:10 – The accuser)

**True** Jesus put God's will first (JOHN 6:38 – **To do the will of him that sent me**)

**True** Believers should always be ready to testify (1 PET 3:15 – Be ready always)

**True** Thyatira became a thriving Christian community (REV 2:19 – The Lord of Thyatira: **I know thy works**)

**Extra Credit** - In your opinion, are you ready to give an answer for your joy?

### Lesson 11: Lois and Eunice

'There's no way to be a perfect mother, and a million ways to be a good one'

– Jill Churchill (Janice Brooks): American author (1943 – 2023)

As a child, my mom took care of everything! With a full-time job as a para-legal, she made sure I was reminded of my homework, dressed appropriate for school, had breakfast, lunch and dinner, tended to my chores, and shaped my decision-making with direction and guidance in the skills to manage life. Note: Some guidance was more painful than others, as I was often resistant to authority and required physical encouragement:

- **Proverbs 22:6** Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it.

Just like muscle memory aids in accomplishing physical tasks (like riding a bike), moral memory is that internal compass all of us possess, and others calibrate that compass when we are young (train to define what is / is not acceptable). This 'setting' has a way of influencing you well into your senior years.

The funny thing is that as I have grown, have a family of my own, and have established myself as a responsible adult (for the most part), my mom is STILL my mom! Parenthood is not a role that has an end – Once you are a father or mother, it is a lifelong gig. Thankfully, the author provides a little insight – There is no such thing as a perfect parent in humanity, but that is not what we are to strive for. We are to try to be good parents, teaching our children and training them in the love of God (**JOHN 3:16**), having faith to know that no matter what immature decisions our children make, they will return to God!

This is a great opportunity to review the testimony of Lois and Eunice in faithful parenthood.

## Who are Lois and Eunice

### Acts 16:1-2 – A diverse family

(1) Then came he to Derbe and Lystra: and, behold, a certain disciple was there, named Timotheus, the son of a certain woman, which was a Jewess, and believed; but his father was a Greek:

(2) Which was well reported of by the brethren that were at Lystra and Iconium.

While on his second missionary journey (around 51 AD), the Apostle Paul comes to the town of Lystra, where he encounters a remarkable young man named Timothy. He is compelled to document Timothy's unusual background, as this young man has accomplished much, but Paul takes care to note there is more to Timothy, as his exceptional character is not simply by chance.

Lystra is a small town in Asia Minor (modern Turkey) that was established by the Romans in 6 BC as a control point to protect against the tribes to the mountainous west. Situated between Iconium and Derbe in the hilly country, it became part of the Roman road to Galatia. With almost 60 years as a Roman town, the population was diverse. As the Romans brought people from all over their empire as they expanded their influence, there were Romans of Italy, Greeks, Jews of Israel, Gentiles of the local region, and merchants and slaves from every part of the known world.

Starting with the reference of Timothy's mother (Eunice), we learn several key details of her background:

- Jewess: Born into a Jewish family observing the law, practicing her faith in the reading of Jewish scripture, and disciplined in the ritualistic practices.
- A believer (Timothy is the first second generation Christian mentioned in the Bible) which means she connected the ministry of Jesus Christ as fulfillment of prophecy:
  - o **Matthew 5:17** Think not that I am come to destroy the law, or the prophets: I am not come to destroy, but to fulfil.

Eunice understands that the Christ is the reconciliation of humanity to God, and that Jesus had accomplished that in His death, burial, and resurrection (**1 JOHN 4:10** - and sent his Son *to be* the propitiation for our sins) with new life!

- A woman free from the bondage of tradition (**ROM 6:14** - for ye are not under the law, but under grace), she is free to marry whom she wishes, and she chooses to wed outside the confines of the Jewish world and is in a union with a man who is a Greek (Gentile) and not a probably not a believer:
  - o Although a freedom, there are potential obstacles in such a union, as both may not be equally yoked (**2 COR 6:14** - Be ye not unequally yoked together with unbelievers) as this may cause division and controversy.
  - o One of the consequences is that their children would not be considered Jewish by her family (in the same category as the Samaritans) – Timothy would have struggles as a child in the Jewish community (but Eunice would persevere).
  - o Eunice's testimony includes a marriage that did not prevent Timothy from coming to Christ (although most likely an unbelieving Gentile, her husband must have been supportive, which is a credit to her character)

The result of her steadfast parenting – Timothy would have a very good testimony throughout Lystra and Iconium, a great accomplishment for any parent.

Eunice's mother Lois (Timothy's grandmother) is not mentioned yet, but we will learn later that this was not a one woman show, and that loving and faithful parenting can literally mean the difference between eternal life and death.

## **2 Timothy 1:5 – The apple does not fall far from the tree**

**(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.

In his second epistle to Timothy, Paul pays particular attention to the family of Timothy as the source of his faith in Jesus Christ:

- Unfeigned: Paul probably encountered many who would profess with their mouths but were not aligned in their hearts as their lifestyles and testimonies did not reflect a new creature (**2 COR 5:17**), and produced no spiritual fruit:

- **James 2:18** Yea, a man may say, Thou hast faith, and I have works: shew me thy faith without thy works, and I will shew thee my faith by my works.

Works do not establish the faith (cannot 'work' for salvation), but faith should produce works.

- **Matthew 7:22-23 – Lip service does not impress the Lord**  
**(22)** Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? and in thy name have cast out devils? and in thy name done many wonderful works?  
**(23)** And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you: depart from me, ye that work iniquity.

Works without faith are as filthy rags (**ISA 64:6**) and establish no merit with the Lord (**EPH 2:8-9**)

Paul must have personally witnessed the testimony of Lois and Eunice to make the claim that their faith was authentic and not merely people practicing a religion.

- In thee also: Paul credits Timothy's faith and character to Lois and Eunice - Recognition that parents play a critical role in the spiritual health of their children, that both accomplished a great work in raising Timothy.

- **Ephesians 6:4 – Parental responsibility**  
**(4)** And, ye fathers, provoke not your children to wrath: but bring them up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.

Salvation is of the Lord only (**ROM 9:18** – Whom He will) and is faithful by giving humanity the ability to choose (**JOHN 3:16** – *Whosoever believeth*). However, that does not alleviate us of responsibility in preparing the next generation to make this decision, as we are charged:

- Not to act in anger, cruelty, injustice, or be unforgiving
- To be nurturing, guiding, instructing in the spiritual truth of the Lord
- (Admonition – Defining the responsibilities and duties we have to our Lord)

In the role of spiritual teacher, the parent is not alone as it is the Lord that is the schoolmaster and is there with you, examining the heart.

Lois and Eunice were much more than faithful believers in their daily lives – They stand as examples of how to prepare a young heart in the recognition of the truth, and to choose wisely:

**2 Timothy 3:15** And that from a child thou hast known the holy scriptures, which are able to make thee wise unto salvation through faith which is in Christ Jesus.

Parenting does not stop when your children step out the door – It is another beginning!

**Next Lesson: Sapphira**

## Women of the New Testament – Lesson 11: Lois and Eunice

### Study Questions

1. According to Acts 16:1, in what town did Paul meet Timothy and his family?

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2. According to Acts 16:1, how does Paul describe Timothy's mother and father?

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3. According to 2 Timothy 1:5, how does Paul describe the faith of Lois and Eunice?

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4. According to 2 Timothy 3:15, what is the result of Timothy's childhood training?

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5. Complete the following scripture:

**Mark 9:37** Whosoever shall receive one of such \_\_\_\_\_ in my name, receiveth \_\_\_\_\_.

### True / False

### Reference

T F Timothy had a good reputation in other towns as well

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T F Faith produces works

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T F Works establishes salvation

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T F A child's emotional condition is irrelevant in education

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**EXTRA CREDIT** – In your opinion, are you a good parent, and why or why not?

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