

## Sermon Notes – May 12, 2024

### Three Elements Of Introduction

First, let's admit the obvious: Mother's Day brings all kinds of emotions to the table – happy memories, current relationships, struggles, loss, and for some, sadness, disappointment, or even anger.

Second: Interestingly, the Bible introduces us to all kinds of people, some who were generally wise and made good choices; others who were mostly foolish, or just plain wicked...and everyone in between those extremes. Not everyone that the Bible introduces us to is intended to be a "role model" or a "hero of the faith" in all aspects. Today we are going to focus on one family – Timothy, his mom, & his grandmother.

And third: We want to think together today about "the handoff," both in the track & field sense, and especially in regard to handing off the faith.

### Today's Text: II Timothy 1:1-7

- ⇒ II Timothy is the last letter written by the Apostle Paul, written sometime shortly before he is killed for being a follower of Jesus. (HINT: Pay attention today! We'll be in the Pastoral Epistles this coming summer!)
- ⇒ Timothy is the son of a Jewish woman and a Greek father. Timothy's dad appears to be completely out of the picture, at least, he is never mentioned in the text.
- ⇒ Timothy is now a young pastor in the thriving – and very pagan – metropolis of Ephesus. Paul is a mentor and friend to Timothy and actually started the church there in Ephesus.

### God Raises Up Disciples In All Kinds Of Settings!

#### **(II Timothy 1:1-7 & 3:14-15; Acts 14 & 16)**

- ⇒ "A disciple was there" = an active follower, not just a learner.
- ⇒ The story of Jesus comes to Timothy in the midst of great controversy and difficulty and pain. Timothy's mom apparently is on the \_\_\_\_\_ of mainstream Jewish life. Cf. **16:3**

14:12-16

14:17-21

14:22-26

14:27-31

⇒ We have noted already in the book of Mark, that sometimes Jesus' humanity is starkly in view and other times His divinity seems to be front and center. As you read **Mark 14:1-31** again, note any details that seem to make it clear that Jesus IS God. Include any details that support the idea that Jesus was in complete control of the events leading up to His death, i.e. nothing happened by accident.

⇒ Many of the events in **Mark 14:1-31** are recorded in the other gospels with additional details included. For example: (1) it is likely that the woman in v.3-9 was Mary, the sister of Martha and Lazarus, (2) Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead within days of the events in Ch.14, (3) Judas specifically objected to the ointment being wasted, (4) the dinner in v.3-9 might have happened earlier and be included in Ch.14 out of sequence. Knowing these details would seem to shed a lot of light on Ch.14. However, it's important to let Mark tell his story as he chooses and not get too caught up in comparing the gospel accounts. With that in mind, think about why Mark might have omitted these details. Was he just trying to be concise? Or limit himself to what he was told by Peter? Or might there be other reasons?

⇒ Look back over the event in **12:41-45** and compare what happens there to **Mark 14:3-9**. How are the two events similar? How are they different?

### **Time to PRAY** (Or do this at the beginning of your group time)

Share prayer requests that relate to the people in your group & PRAY for them!



**Worship Next Sunday: May 19, 2024**

**"Not Everything Poured-Out is Wasted"**

(Mark 14:1-25) Pastor Stephen Abeshima

- ⇒ Ultimately, it is the Spirit of God who gives spiritual life; it isn't about polished \_\_\_\_\_, perfect families, ideal churches, or even great \_\_\_\_\_.
- ⇒ As represented in Pastoral Epistles, Timothy is not a "miniature Paul." Paul is \_\_\_\_\_, fearless, experienced, and a seasoned veteran of many spiritual battles. Timothy is young, apparently \_\_\_\_\_ in nature, and perhaps of a weaker physical make-up.
- ⇒ Paul doesn't pull any punches in calling Timothy to live a life of strong faith. He calls Timothy to join him in \_\_\_\_\_, **(1:8; 2:3, 8-10)**, to be strong like a soldier **(2:3)**, and to expect the life of faith to be difficult **(3:12)**.

## God Intends People Of Faith To Hand Off The Faith

### **(II Timothy 2:1-2)**

- ⇒ Let's remember that "the faith" is not the same as "faith." In II Timothy, "the faith" has a specific meaning – Cf. **II Timothy 1:13 & 4:3** ("sound words" and "sound teaching" mean healthy, true, biblically \_\_\_\_\_).
- ⇒ This entire letter is an example of "handing off the faith" to another runner. There is instruction, encouragement, mentoring, personal examples, very specific coaching, and personal comments. In contrast to an actual footrace, in terms of faith, handing off doesn't mean that you get to \_\_\_\_\_; it means that you've added another runner!
- ⇒ One of the dangers of hiring "experts" who DO the ministry (instead of training & coaching) is that we might fail to see our part in "The Art of the Handoff." We like "player/coaches" on our staff.
- ⇒ P.S. The urgency of the "handoff" is why we continue to ask for longer commitments in children's & youth ministry leadership roles.

## Responding to God's Word

- ⇒ First, if you are a follower of Jesus Christ today, someone "handed off" the faith to you, likely more than one "someone." Maybe you and a praying grandmother or a praying mother who hoped & prayed that you would be a fully devoted follower of Jesus someday. Well, how's that going for you?
- ⇒ Second, how does the priority of the handoff here at Sunset look in your life? Many of you are already deeply vested in this effort. Thank you!
- ⇒ Third, never forget that others are watching how you handle life...this is part of the handoff...how you face difficulty and disappointment and even loss. Right now, you are handing off something. Is it the life-giving, Christ-honoring gospel?

# Community Group Notes

## Getting Started

How readily do you express gratitude? Is it a matter of routine, because saying "thank-you" was drilled into you as a child? Or is it behavior you've taught yourself as an adult? How do you typically express gratitude? words . . . gifts . . . actions? Are there certain situations that cause you to naturally overflow with gratitude? Others where you are more reserved? Or even negligent? Have you ever wondered if you might have gone overboard in expressing gratitude?

## Talking It Through

- ⇒ What did you hear in Sunday's Mother's Day sermon? What did you learn about Timothy & his family? READ II Timothy 1:1-7 and 3:14-15 again.
- ⇒ How does it feel to remember that "the handoff" isn't guaranteed? What factors go into a successful handoff, both in track & field AND in faith?
- ⇒ What things might a church be doing to encourage a good hand-off of faith to the next generation?

## Preparing for next week's sermon

- ⇒ Read **Mark 14:1-31** together as a group and do the following:
  - Mark the following words:
    - disciples** (or **the twelve**, including **they all** and other pronouns)
    - Judas** (including **one** in the phrase **one of the twelve** and other pronouns)
  - Note in the margin of your workbook each time a new person or group of people is mentioned. We have noted before that Mark tends to present his characters as "insiders" or "outsiders." Those exact terms aren't found here, but give some thought as to which category each character falls into and discuss your thoughts with the group.

⇒ As you read **Mark 14:1-31** again together as a group, look for TWO "Markan sandwiches." A Markan sandwich is a literary technique where Mark begins telling a story, interrupts himself with another story, and then goes back and finishes the first story, creating an A<sup>1</sup> – B – A<sup>2</sup> structure. The center of the sandwich is usually the key to the entire passage. As you read, summarize each group of verses below with 5 words or less. Use the first blank to identify the parts of the two sandwiches (A<sup>1</sup>, B, or A<sup>2</sup>). Six of the 7 sections below will be part of a Markan sandwich.

- \_\_\_\_\_ 14:1-2 \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14:3-9 \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ 14:10-11 \_\_\_\_\_