

What stood out to you most from the sermon? Why?

Key Takeaways:

1. Timothy received a generational gift of faith through his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice. That kind of inheritance is a grace worth recognizing and honoring.
2. When the ideal is not realized (when faith does not come through family, or when those who helped us are themselves broken) grace abounds. God uses imperfect and unexpected people to accomplish his purposes.
3. Fear can change behavior, but it cannot produce life. True transformation comes through genuine faith in Christ, not through cleaning up external conduct.
4. The greatest gift is not what you have accomplished in Jesus. The greatest gift is what Jesus has accomplished for you -- that your name is written in heaven.
5. Remember your story, and those who helped you write it. Those people are gifts. But Jesus is the Savior of the story, not them.

Discussion Questions:

1. Read 2 Timothy 1: 3-7 Who is someone who carried Jesus to you? Who is your Lois and Eunice?
2. Read 2 Timothy 1:8-13 When the ideal isn't realized, grace abounds. What does that statement mean to you personally? Have you experienced a season where God's grace showed up in a form you did not expect?
3. You don't find your hope or your confidence in knowing when you were saved. You find your hope and your confidence in knowing who saved you. Do you find that distinction freeing or challenging? Why?
4. In 2 Timothy 1:9, Paul teaches that God saved us not according to our works but according to his own purpose and grace given before time began. How does that truth change the way you think about your own story, the messy parts, the detours, the seasons of wandering?
5. Tell your story. Write down the names of the people who helped you and go thank them. Is there someone you have never properly thanked for their role in your faith story? What has kept you from doing that?

6. God may use your story as a gift to somebody else. Who in your life might need to hear a piece of your story right now? What would it take to share it?

Practical Applications:

1. Write it down. Write the name of your Lois, your Eunice, your Sid, or your Brent. In one sentence, describe what they did for you as they pointed you to Christ.
2. Send the message. Reach out to that person this week by text, phone call, letter, or in person, and thank them. If they are no longer living, tell someone else about them. Do not let the story end with you.
3. Share a piece of your story. Write two or three sentences of your own story and share it with your Home Group this week.
4. Ask the hard question. Identify one person in your life who may be doing well on the outside but whose soul is unsettled. Find a moment this week to ask them a version of Sid's question: "How deep does this go?"
5. Pray for your family. If faith has not yet moved through your family the way you would hope, spend time this week praying specifically for each family member by name. Trust that God is not finished.
6. Examine your rejoicing. Spend time in personal reflection this week asking yourself: What am I most prone to rejoice in rather than simply the grace that has written my name in heaven? My accomplishments? My spiritual activity? My reputation?