



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Lesson 51

Lesson Title: Mother's Day—Timothy's Mother and Grandmother

Take Home Point: Thank God for mothers.

Warm-Up:

One day as a woman was preparing a roast, she cut off a couple of inches on the end and tossed it in the garbage. Her husband happened to be there and asked her why, since what she threw away seemed to be a perfectly good piece of the roast. "Well, that's how my mother always fixed a roast, so that's how I do it," she said. The next time they were visiting her mother, they asked her about it. "Well," she said, "that's how your grandmother fixed her roasts, so I figured it must not be a good piece of meat for my family and I cut it off." So together they went to ask the grandmother why the end piece was not good and why she cut it off. "What?" exclaimed the grandmother. "Why, that meat is fine! I cut the end off only because my roasting pan was too small for the cuts we butchered!"

Read: Acts 16:1-5

Observation (What happened?):

What head start did Timothy have in his spiritual life?

What happened to the church as Paul and his companions traveled around?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

Why would Timothy's background be particularly useful in their travels?

Why was the simple message given by Paul and his friends so well received by the churches?

Insight:

I don't know if the story in today's Warm-Up is true, but it is true that we are an example to those around us. What we do by conscious deliberate thought affects those around us. Unfortunately, what we do without deliberate thought also affects them. And they don't necessarily know the difference. Our children (and adults, too!) are watching us every day, seeing if we live by what we believe and teach. The possible impacts of unthinking action should cause us to stop and make two choices. First, consider God's word and ways. Does your intent or action obey him and honor him? Second, consider the effects of actions and words on those around us. It's kind of trite but true – would you be willing to have a newspaper headline your activity for everyone to read about? Is that too extreme? How about if just your children knew? Or your spouse or best friend or co-worker? It takes thought and a reliance on God's wisdom and strength to live this way. But it's how he wants us to live. As 1 Peter 5:8 says, *"Be self-controlled and alert. Your enemy the devil prowls around like a roaring lion looking for someone to devour."* (NIV)

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What are you doing to make your heart more sensitive to God's word to you?

What are you teaching your family about God's truth and love, either by word or action?

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