

Timothy

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Introduction: Jesus will mold us into useful instruments in His service.

- A. Our relationship Jesus has with us will mold us to be like Jesus. **(Jn 15:11-17)**
 - 1. Timothy was born in the Lycaonian city of Lystra. **(Acts 16:1-3)**
 - 2. His father was a Greek and his mother was a Jewess.
 - 3. Since Timothy was not circumcised then it is likely his father opposed it.
- B. He may have become acquainted with Paul and Barnabas when they came to Lystra around A.D. 46 to 48. **(Acts 14:4-7)**
 - 1. It is likely that Timothy, his mother and grandmother became Christians at this time. **(Acts 16:1)**
 - 2. Because of their Jewish background they were given an early opportunity to receive the gospel. **(Rom 1:16-17)**

I. Jesus can mold the life of anyone who will come to Him

- A. From the world's perspective there was little potential in Timothy.
 - 1. He was a Jew in a distant Greek city.
 - 2. In his religious training only his mother and grandmother took a part. **(2 Tim 1:5)**
 - 3. There was great opposition from both the Jews and Greeks to Christians.
- B. God had planted His powerful word in Timothy's heart. **(2 Tim 3:15; Acts 14:7-8)**
 - 1. Over and over we see that it is not the background of an individual that matter but rather if one opens their heart to the Lord.
 - 2. Would you have sent a previously maddened, demon possessed man back to the people to teach having almost no knowledge? **(Mk 5:1-5, 17-20; Lk 8:40)**
 - 3. What made this man successful? How many of you **have greater knowledge** than this man?
 - 4. Again, would you use this woman in evangelism? **(John 4:25-30)**
 - 5. There is not a Christian among us who cannot be as effective as these if we would have the same measure of faith!

II. The call to discipleship was clear to Timothy

- A. What would it have been like to witness the attempted execution of the one who just baptized you? **(Acts 14:19)**
 - 1. Here a fickle crowd who at first confessed to be Paul's supporter then is moved by some Jews to kill him.
 - 2. These Jews so hated Paul that they came from other cities following him. **(Acts 14:1-6)**
 - 3. Was this good or bad for Timothy? **(2 Tim 3:10-12)**
 - a. Paul reminds Timothy of these things for his good.
 - b. God wanted Israel to see opposition as well in Egypt. **(Gen 46:32-24)**
- B. When we attempt to water down the gospel for the comfort of others, we undermine God's power to mold a man! **(2 Tim 4:1-4)**
 - 1. Timothy decided to go preach with Paul. What did he think it would be like? **(Acts 16:3)**

2. They shortly came to Thessalonica. (**Acts 17:1, 5-8**)
3. What kind of faith was built within the Thessalonians? What kind of preaching and example did they see before them?
4. No one has become a Christian without repentance.
 - a. If Satan cannot stop us from believing the truth, he will settle for one being religious but unrepentant. (**Jn 12:42-43**)
 - b. We can be exposed to the truth all our lives and confess it, but be far away from the Lord in our hearts. (**Mt 15:8-9**)
5. Can one believe the truth and remain in a denomination without controversy?

III. Timothy became like Jesus in his concern for others

- A. Timothy's faith grew from the start.
 1. He had a genuine faith that could not be hid. (**Acts 16:2; 2 Tim 1:5**)
 2. God also fed this faith by encouraging words from those who could prophecy. (**1 Tim 1:18**)
 3. This is our main work as a local church! Are you building and encouraging the faith of others? (**Eph 4:15-16**)
 4. What Timothy was given by these brethren he would give to others for the rest of his life. Have you experienced this?
- B. His growing faith led to more opportunities.
 1. He was given a spiritual gift. (**2 Tim 1:6**)
 2. He was circumcised to give doors of opportunity to serve others.
 - a. This was not a matter of personal likes.
 - b. This spirit is essential to the spread of the gospel. (**1 Cor 9:19-23**)
 3. He was given the opportunity to do the same work that resulted in Timothy's conversion and also nearly resulted in Paul's death! (**Acts 16:3-5**)
 4. He needed to be warned against falling into complacency. (**2 Tim 1:6**)
- C. Timothy's love for others gave him special opportunities. (**Phil 2:19-23**)
 1. We tend to open our hearts to those who really care for us! Paul showed that this attitude was rare.
 2. Paul sent him to take on very difficult tasks. In addition to being sent to Philippi, he was also sent to the Thessalonians and to Corinth. (**1 Cor 4:16-17**)
 3. Jesus did not want a single soul to be lost. These problems in the church needed to be addressed by someone who really cared. (**Rom 14:14-15; 15:1-2**)
 4. We have made a great mistake if we view the work of the Lord in any other way than in working with people! We must not be isolated.
 5. Working with people for their good *is not easy*.

Conclusion: Has the Lord molded your life to be a friend of the faithful?

- A. We need to overcome our fears and begin to reach out.
- B. Once involved in this great work you will experience a joy that is hard to describe!
- C. Why not begin today?