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| 1  1 Timothy 5:1-8 Sermon Outline  02/25/24  “Reflecting God’s Heart For Widows”  Part I  INTRO:  Back in 1930s, during Great Depression in SoCal  3 year old boy Burton  -Dad died/wife widowed  Financially in trouble, but church came in to build a home for them  Very generous  So vowed when young man to build a house for church for free  Built in 1977 Worship Center and church became mega church with thousands upon thousands being saved by Gospel | 2  How can someone like that be shown such generosity?  How can he show even more generosity in building an expensive project like that?  Answer: Only possible if you see God’s concerns as your concerns  Only possible if you see that in God caring for widows, you see that we too should love and care for widows  MAIN POINT:  Today’s passage, you will see why God has special place for widows and in seeing that you will see the church’s responsibility to reflect God’s heart in caring for widows  BODY:  Up to this point, Paul laid much theological foundation for different members of the body of Christ |
| 3  From here on out: Paul = really practical with theology  -Specifically how we relate to different members  of church  Paul already mentioned back in 3:15 we are one big spiritual family  3:15  “*but in case I am delayed, I write so that you will know how one ought to conduct himself in the household of God, which is the church of the living God, the pillar and support of the truth*.”  Household of God = familial term  ∅ corporation  ∅ social club  = family of God | 4  Generally how we should treat men and women: Begin 5:1  “*Do not sharply rebuke an older man, but rather appeal to him as a father, to the younger men as brothers,****2****the older women as mothers, and the younger women as sisters, in all purity*.”  We live in culture disrespect/family respect disintegrated  At certain point = authority of parents were respected  But over time, authority became despised and point where children are running the show, parents letting kids do whatever they want, thinking they are being “loving” but in reality = setting them up for failure  End times: Matthew 10:21  “*children rising up against their fathers and mothers and putting them to death* |
| 5  And Paul to Timothy: Don’t sharply rebuke an older man  “sharply rebuke” = lit. strike with blows meta. Verbally strike with blows  Temptation for anyone to correct someone in harshness  But admonish someone in kindness, and love  Same thing in Gal. 6:1  *“Brethren, even if anyone is caught in any trespass, you who are spiritual, restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness*  “appeal” = parakaleo = encourage, admonish, entreat  idea: coming alongside of someone to hold them up in their weakness  In fact term used for Holy Spirit = Holy Spirit is your paraclete | 6  One who comes alongside of you to assist when you are in need  “younger men” = treat them as brothers  A little more on a peer to peer level “hey stop it,” “cut it out”  Still your equal  “older women” = mothers similar to fathers  “younger women” = sisters = no room for sexual immorality  Eph. 5:3 in general for all believers:  “*there should not be a hint of sexual immorality among God’s people*.”  From general to specific Verse 3  “*Honor widows who are widows indeed*.” |
| 7  Two types most disadvan. = widows and orphans  widows particularly preyed upon for financial gain  Prime example = pharisees = devoured widows’ houses  Somehow took advantage and manipulated them to give up all they had  Losing a husband = devastating in that culture for wife  -Didn’t have access to honorables means of work  Since women did not have protector/provider, God became that instead for her  Acts 9 = condition of widows  Dorcas ministry of making clothes for widows  When she died widows were grieving and showing Peter clothes she made for them | 8  Acts 6: widows were lacking food  Early church had ministry of distributing food to them  Lacked food and clothing  Ps. 68:5 God is…  “*A father of the fatherless and a judge for the widows.*”  Exodus 22:22-24 says that  God Himself will kill with His sword those who afflict widows and orphans.  Deuteronomy 27:19 God warns that a curse will come to anyone who distorts justice because they are dealing with an alien, orphan, or widow.  Many others texts like it = God’s heart for widows  In light of that “honor widows who are widows indeed” |
| 9  What does he mean?  Well there were “widows” were weren’t widows in the truest sense of the word  Widows = pursued pleasure and sin when their husbands died (maybe like those in Ephesus)  No claim for support  Others were asking support from church to help them when they had family to support them, priorities were mixed up  But “true widow” = godly believer who serves the Lord and has no family to support them  Church is obligated to serve them  Honoring = not just attitude, but financial  V. 4 | 10  “*but if any widow has children or grandchildren, they must first learn to practice piety in regard to their own family and to make some return to their parents; for this is acceptable in the sight of God*.”  Children/grandchildren = need to take care of their own families  Normal expected course  Jesus describes opposite example of this in Pharisees  Matt. 15:4-6 Pronounces woe on them for creating legalistic system of supposedly consecrating money to God while escaping obligation to help parents  “*For God said, ‘Honor your father and mother,’ and, ‘He who speaks evil of father or mother is to be put to death.’**But you say, ‘Whoever says to his father or mother, “Whatever I have that would help you has been given to God,” he is not to honor his father or his mother.’ And by this you invalidated the word of God for the sake of your tradition*.” |
| 11  Jesus rightly calls them hypocrites, anything but pious  “honor” parents = financial  It is only right that you repay your parents right?  They took care of you, fed you, clothed you, provided for you, put you in college, guided you to be live independently, etc.  Least you can do is to also make sure they have enough food, clothing, and a place to lay their head at night  I know putting one’s folks in nursing home = last resort for some and it unfortunately turns out that way,  but some families immediately place their parents in nursing home as an afterthought  Sad: mental state rapidly deteriorates because they don’t live a normal life there/families don’t see them much | 12  V. 5  Paul focuses character of widow  “*she who is a widow indeed and who has been left alone, has fixed her hope on God and continues in entreaties and prayers night and day*.”  Primary provider and protector gone = she looks to Lord as her only hope  Instead of using her freedom for evil…she uses it for the Lord  Prophetess Anna good example of godly widow Luke 2:36-38  “*And there was a prophetess, Anna the daughter of Phanuel, of the tribe of Asher. She was advanced in years and had lived with her husband seven years after her marriage, and then as a widow to the age of eighty-four. She never left the temple, serving night and day with fastings and prayers. At that very moment she came up and began giving thanks to God, and continued to speak of Him to all those who were looking for the redemption of Jerusalem*.” |
| 13  Paul gives striking contrast V. 6  “*But she who gives herself to wanton pleasure is dead even while she lives*.”  Opposite of Anna = V. 6  LSB translates “wanton pleasure” = “self-indulgence”  She is not “God” -centered but “me” -centered  She is nothing but a walking corpse, rotting and stinking up the air she is in  What she thinks is true living is in fact killing her soul  V. 7  “*prescribe these things as well, so that they may be above reproach*.”  Timothy “command” these things!  Stop living for yourself and live “above reproach” | 14  “above reproach” = same word blamelessness  Reminded again that this is the goal of every believer, you are to strive to be above reproach because Christ is above reproach  Paul rounds out this section with V. 8  “*But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever*.”  Contrast: If dead, unregenerate unbeliever knows that he is to care for his own…  How much more should you as a professing believer take care of your own parents!  Ancient times = it was expected  Demosthenes, Athenian statesman and orator = “I regard man who neglects his parents as unbelieving and hateful to the gods, as well as to men” |
| 15  Philo of Alexandria, Greek Jewish philosopher = even in animal realm old birds take care of their parents because they taught them how to fly  For humans to do any less would be lower than the beasts  Evident in Scripture Rom. 2:14  Gentiles having law written on their hearts even though don’t possess Law like Jews  You don’t have to say murder is wrong, they know its wrong  Similarly:  They know instinctively taking care of parents is right thing to do  That’s why Paul says: denied faith/worse than unbeliever!  Denied faith = not lost salvation | 16  It means rather = denied core tenets of Christianity = love  Essence of Christian faith = love  Love = sacrificial/gives of itself  Love = expects nothing in return  And you know?  We have all failed to some extent or another this standard  Even best of us would probably recognize and admit they could do so much more for their parents  I think of amazing sacrifice of Sue who goes to Dwayne/Evonne’s place to care for them  Such a godly example = for me to follow  Convicting for me of my lack of love for parents |
| 17  ILLUS:  $25 gift card for anniversary but Heidi says “no, $50!”  I sank beneath table  I think one of reasons Lord brought me to Heidi is so that I would become more compassionate and generous but she is generous  She always tends to double the amount I’m thinking of giving for family and friends  I think all of us can see our shortcomings as we see let this passage speak to our hearts right?  It all starts with the family. If we don’t love our own flesh and blood family, how can we claim to love the church?  That’s why failure to maintain one’s household is disqualification for pastor  Mark of true believer = love | 18  It’s always love, always has been love, and always will be love  Whatever doctrine we believe in, it should always be converted into practical love  Book of James right?  Proving genuineness of what you believe by what you do  James 1:27  “*Pure and undefiled religion in the sight of our God and Father is this: to visit orphans and widows in their distress, and to keep oneself unstained by the world*.”  Possessing heart for vulnerable, for those who have everything ripped away from them  Widow = cheros = one who is bereft, everything taken from them |
| 19  God = special heart = widows = picture of His love for you  At cross = spoke 2 people  1. Vile, wretched criminal = lit. nailed to cross, unable to rescue himself  Didn’t know much but He knew that Jesus was Messiah  Remember me when you come into your kingdom  “Today you will be with me in paradise”  You know other one?  2. Widow about to lose her unique earthly provider and protector  Jn. 19:26 “Woman, behold your son!”  “Behold, your mother!” | 20  When he was absorbing wrath of God for your sins  Suffering the most painful death imaginable he thought of his mother  How she needed to be cared for, to be entrusted to the disciple whom Jesus loved: John  Jesus is not implying = widows = more important than atonement  But His care for widowed mother = picture of what it looks like for God to save you  You = all widows spiritually  When you sinned = lost everything  Care, comfort, peace, security knowing and being in relationship to God the Father |
| 21  You were like widow of Zeraphath in 1 Kg 17 who was hopelessly looking at her last meal to eat before she  and her son died  When you sinned against God, you actually were the one who died as a consequence  Death is all around us  Every time widow = remind you of death  You will have to stand before God and give account of your life  If you die in sins = no escape from fire with brimestone  But like how God cares for His widows, God has special heart for those repent of their sins and trust in Jesus alone for their salvation  Though you may be spiritually a widow, and even physically a widow God has provided for you | 22  Like Elijah who came to supply an endless supply of bread and oil to this destitute widow and son  Jesus Christ provided for you His life, as the bread of life when you had nothing  He came not only as your provider but as your protector so that in accepting Him  He will make sure nothing will ever be able to separate you from love of God…  For all those = love Him/called according….  When you receive ultimate priceless gift of salvation,  purchased by blood of Christ  You can be like Burton = possessing a heart of generosity because He first tasted the generosity and provision of God  Then with transformed heart, you can then care for most vulnerable in your church because God cared for you when you were most vulnerable in sin.  Let’s pray |