Bloomington, IN March 25, 2019

Monday

Faces of Faith

Genuine Faith

Introduction: Hebrews 12:1-2

 In this meeting we are looking at the many witnesses within the Bible, real heroes

 of faith. We are looking at their recorded lives and seeing what we can learn about

 faith from them.

 A few years ago Lisa and I were at a garage sale. To my surprise there was a

 Rolex watch lying among some old watches. I couldn’t believe it and …

 I couldn’t believe they only wanted $5 for it. What a deal!

 Who knew that there were fake Rolex watches out there?

 There are a lot of fakes and phonies out there when it comes to religion and faith.

 In the New Testament the fakes and phonies were most often identified as the

 scribes and the Pharisees. - Matthew 23:2-4

* Their faith was not a genuine faith, it wasn’t the real deal, their faith was two faced, they were hypocrites. They expected everything from others and nothing from themselves.

 The lives and faith of the women we are going to study about tonight was not fake

nor phony, but the real deal, a genuine. Their faith is written about for our

learning.

I. Slide Genuine Defined

 A. Genuine

 1. Click Unfeigned which means sincere or Click free from hypocrisy

 2. Click A genuine faith is a faith that is not disguised or masked

 3. It is a faith that is actively doing the will of God.

 4. Hypocrisy is such a deadly thing.

 a. It spreads; it blinds, it focuses on the outside and not the inside.

 5. Tonight we are going to look at 5 women with genuine faith, their faith is

worthy of our imitation.

II. A Genuine Faith

 A. **Lois & Eunice**

1. Timothy

 a. To understand the faith of these two women, we need to

understand somethings about their grandson and son Timothy.

 1) I Timothy 1:2 - Timothy was a “true son in the faith” to the

apostle Paul.

 2) He was a minister of the gospel of Jesus

 a) Click He had a great reputation – Acts 16:1-2

 b) Click Paul’s fellow worker – Romans 16:21

 c) Click Paul sent him here and there to remind the

brethren of the doctrine of Christ – I Corinthians 4:17

 3) Timothy is a fine young man of faith, but his training started

first at home with his grandmother and mother, Lois and

Eunice.

 2. Click II Timothy 1:3-5

 a. Timothy’s faith was genuine. It was sincere and this kind of faith

was first found in his grandmother Lois and his mother Eunice.

 b. How happy these women must have been in serving the Lord.

 c. Where does faith come from? Hearing the word of God Rm. 10:17

 d. Click A genuine faith is a sincere faith – perhaps redundant but true.

 3. II Timothy 3:13-15

 a. When Timothy was a little boy, then a teenager, then a young man,

his grandmother and mother taught him the word of God, the

Scriptures.

b. Fathers and mothers and grandparents are doing their children a

grave disservice by neglecting the teaching of the Scriptures.

 1) A curve ball, jump shot, tackle, backflip or somersault will not

win them the crown of life. God’s own people are so often

wasting too much time on carnal things and are neglecting

the everlasting things.

4. Lois and Eunice are our heroes of genuine faith.

 B. **Tabitha**

 1. Acts 9:36-42

 a. Here was a woman full of good works and charitable deeds and her

presence was deeply missed by those who knew of her good works.

 b. This is because genuine faith is not dead, it is alive and active,

Click it is active in good deeds.

 c. She dies but Jesus’ apostle Peter is nearby and he is asked to come

to Joppa.

 2. Acts 9:39

 a. Her good deeds are shown to Peter.

 b. She is raised from the dead and I want you to know what an impact

this had on others.

 3. Acts 9:42

 a. “many believed on the Lord”

 4. Here is a godly woman whose life exemplified that of kindness and charity.

 5. What kind deeds do you do for others? Do you call those who are shut-in

or do are you always saying “I meant to”

 a. Do you visit the widows and orphans in their affliction? That is true

 religion. James 1:27

b. You may have to get up out of the lazy boy chair and turn the TV

off but you will always feel good having visited someone in the

hospital.

 6. When I lack love, good works and charitable deeds I need to remember

Dorcas and the sacred record of her kind acts which touch those around

her.

C. **Widow with 2 mites**

1. Luke 21:1-4

 a. This woman’s husband had passed and the livelihood to support herself

was down to two small copper coins.

 b. What person in their right mind would take their last 2 small copper coins

(which was all she had) and put it as a gift into the treasury of the

temple?

c. A woman who had a profound trust in God. **A woman of genuine faith**

d. A woman of faith who would catch the eye of the Son of God.

 1) She outshined them all that day, why? Why did Jesus single her

out?

d. Her faith. Her trusting and generous faith gave.

e. Click Faith is giving, it is willing to make sacrifices.

 1) A Sacrifice by definition will cost you something.

 a. Something you highly value (2 mites) is forfeited for

something of greater value (her relationship with God).

 2) What is it costing you to serve God?

 a. Does your relationship with God get a substantial amount of

your time?

 b. Do you give as you have prospered, cheerfully, liberally?

 c. Is the Lord getting any of your energy throughout the day?

 d. A sacrifice that counts, costs.

2. Is her generous spirit of giving worthy of our imitation?

 D. **Shunammite Woman**

 1. II Kings 4:8-17

 a. The first thing I want us to take note of is that the Holy Spirit has

identified this woman as a “notable woman” or “great woman” (8)

 b. The second thing is that she was persuasive and perceptive.

 1) (8) “she persuaded him to eat some food.”

 2) Literally when Elisha was passing by she laid hold of him and

encouraged him to eat.

 3) Click I also think of Lydia in Acts 16:15 which says “she

begged us, saying if you have judged me to be faithful to the

Lord, come to my house and stay, “so she persuaded us.”

 4) Over time a relationship was established with Elisha the man

of God and he would often turn in to her home for food. (8)

 3) She was a perceptive woman because she figured out that he

was a man of God and that she and her husband needed to

use their home and resources to furnish him a place to stay

and support his work. (9-10)

 4) She wasn’t just an observer, she was doing her part.

 5) Click A genuine faith is persuasive and perceptive

 6) verse 13 – Elisha acknowledges her wonderful concern and

care.

c. Click Peter says hospitality is a tool God’s people should use.

 1) I Peter 4:9 “Be hospitable to one another without grumbling”

 2) I believe our home is one of God’s greatest blessings that He give

us to use to His glory.

d. Click I Corinthians 9:14 “Even so the Lord has commanded that those who

preach the gospel should live from the Gospel”

 1) There are men who really struggle financially while dedicating their

lives to preaching the Gospel.

 a) Are you perceptive to their needs?

 b) Do you see the importance of their labors.

2. A genuine faith is both persuasive and perceptive about spiritual things.

 3. This woman possessed a spirit of kindness and care that is worthy of imitation.

Conclusion: How wonderful it is to the Bible record of these fine women and the example of their faith. Let us run our race with patience, looking to Jesus the Author and finisher of our faith.