

Sermon Outline and Questions

Bruce Smith – Sunday 7th May

VCA Sunday – 1 Timothy 4 v12

1 Timothy 4:12 Christian Standard Bible

¹² Don't let anyone despise your youth, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love,^[a] in faith, and in purity.

Full disclosure that this is a message for all of us – no one is exempt.

With having one verse context is critical.

- Paul writing to Timothy a young man who became a Christian under Paul's ministry.
- Paul passing along wisdom to Timothy.
- In his absence he wanted to share this advice with Timothy.
- It also applies to all of us.

Students.

The bible says that you should not let anyone look down upon you because you are young.

- The attitude tends to be "well they are only young."

People will look down upon you.

Bruce made reference to when he was young, having long hair and being in the mall, and because he was young, he was asked to leave/kick out of the mall.

He also spoke about attending the Saint John Sea Dogs press conference for the new President. Pointing out that as he saw the new guys, he was thinking that he already had two strikes against him.

1. Because he was from Ontario.
2. Because he was a youngster.

Bruce in some 34 years of ministry has discovered that God can use young people to set an example for us.

Challenge to the young people.

“Young people you can set an example by your behaviour and conduct – to both adults and children”.

Referencing that he has seen these examples in the lives of children, but that equally he has seen poor behaviour in the lives of adults, and that is embarrassing!

To the young people – “Your life counts – you can influence for good”.

In attending the VCA Poetry recital Bruce commented on the fact that from where he sat behind the pupils of VCA he was able to witness and be blessed by the students cheering on one another and encouraging one another. He said, “I was encouraged by that”.

He also made reference how he has had parents of children who have attended Hockey Camp comment on how their children were now different – that something had changed.

- The way they speak.
- The way they treat their siblings.

This being evidence on display of God working in their hearts.

In 1 Timothy 4 v12

Here we have Paul speaking to Timothy about his speech and actions and how it should honor God.

- Setting an example – evidence.
- External characteristics played out in everyday life.

set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love,^[a] in faith, and in purity.

Students were told – “students remember your life matters – it counts – you have something to say – I listen to you – it counts”.

He made reference to a question that was asked of a group teens.

“What does a follower of Jesus look like?”

And a 14-year-old boy answered – “A follower of Jesus, looks like Jesus”. – WOW, so profound.

- No robes and sandals - a light that reflects Christ as they live.

LIVE – Bruce in his prep for the message mistakenly typed – Love as Jesus loves and was going to change it, but in reflection recognised that love was correct as well.

- Love as Jesus loved.
- Live as Jesus lived.

“Out of the mouth of a teenager!”

Something profound that he has never forgotten.

Another challenge to the youth – “Never dismiss what God can do in your life.”

Question - HOW?

This work has to begin in your heart.

- The bible speaks of the condition of the heart.
- We have to remain attached to the vine.

John 15 Christian Standard Bible

The Vine and the Branches

15 “I am the true vine, and my Father is the gardener. ² Every branch in me that does not produce fruit he removes, and he prunes every branch that produces fruit so that it will produce more fruit. ³ You are already clean because of the word I have spoken to you. ⁴ Remain in me, and I in you. Just as a branch is unable to produce fruit by itself unless it remains on the vine, neither can you unless you remain in me. ⁵ I am the vine; you are the branches. The one who remains in me and I in him produces much fruit, because you can do nothing without me.

Parents.

We have God given responsibilities that we have as parents to raise our children up in the ways of God.

- Christian Education – covers a number of areas.

Deuteronomy 6:4-10 Christian Standard Bible

⁴ "Listen, Israel: The LORD our God, the LORD is one.^[a] ⁵ Love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your strength. ⁶ These words that I am giving you today are to be in your heart. ⁷ Repeat them to your children. Talk about them when you sit in your house and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up. ⁸ Bind them as a sign on your hand and let them be a symbol^[b] on your forehead.^[c] ⁹ Write them on the doorposts of your house and on your city gates.

- The application of these verses still holds fast for us today.
- A proof texts.
- His word for us today as parents.

How – a desire in the heart of the parent.

How – God's word should be on our hearts as parents – the commitment to Christian Education.

Question – Has your heart been transformed by God.

Referenced Prince Charles coronation as King and all the pomp and circumstance, men bowing, women curtsying.

And reflecting in that moment that we know who the King of Kings is.

Question – How do we honor him?

- Do we bow our head?
- Do we submit to his reign and rule on our life?

Have we come to the place of understanding that we need a saviour?

- Have the young people done, thought and said things they shouldn't have?
- Acknowledging that we are a sinful people.
- Understanding that it separates us from God.

The Good News is that God sent a substitute – he took our place - he paid the penalty – for all that we say, think and do that is wrong, yesterday, today and tomorrow – and that we are forgiven of those things we have done wrong - a picture of the gospel.

Question – Have you bowed the knee?

Question – Why is it important that we teach/raise our children in the ways of the Lord?

- We want them to go on in the right direction, to do well.

Joshua 1:8 Christian Standard Bible

⁸ This book of instruction must not depart from your mouth; you are to meditate on^[a] it day and night so that you may carefully observe everything written in it. For then you will prosper and succeed in whatever you do.

- Prosperous and successful.

Question – How does the world measure success?

- Power – wealth – fame – influence.

Question – What does God say – what is his definition?

- Read the book.
- Memorize the book.
- Meditate on the book.

Living our faith according to the book.

WHY –

Impacting the lives of our kids in a way that they glorify God.

The Samar – Deuteronomy 6:4-9 points out...

The strategy begins at home.

- Family devotions.
- Reading together.
- Praying together.
- Talking / speaking with your children.
- Investing in their lives.

Live out each and every day – live your faith out in front of your kids.
A reminder to all parents.

- It has to be real, authentic and not just on Sunday's.

There is a consistence available to you in fulfilling those things from above.

Truelife Church catches the vision ministering to young people.

- Kidslife.
- Awana.
- Youth.
- VBS
- And even hockey camp.

As parents you are not alone, there is all kinds of support available to you.
Helping to steer the future of you kids – to point them in the right direction.

Closing –

At the end of the day, they are going to make their own decisions.

- Kids still go off of the deep end even with all the support and direction.
- There really is no answer to this.

The application of 1 Timothy 4 v12 is broad and it speaks to all of us.
That our faith is alive and evident in our lives.

- Live it out – model it – to be the people God has called us to be.