

The Connecting Thread of Influence

(Romans 16:13)

- Introduction:
1. Paul Harvey used to do a segment on his radio broadcast entitled, “The Rest of the Story.”
 2. There are many Bible characters concerning whom I wish I could know the rest of the story.
 3. One of those characters is Simon of Cyrene (Matthew 27:32; Mark 15:21; Luke 23:26).
 4. In this lesson I would like for you to consider the possible connection to a powerful influence in the life of the apostle Paul.

I. A Possible Connection

- A. The crucifixion of Jesus (Matthew 27-28).
- B. Simon of Cyrene is compelled to help carry his cross.
 1. Did he help with bitterness and resentment?
 2. Did he help with a sense of privilege?
- C. Isn't it curious that all three gospel accounts mention his name?
- D. Even more curious is that Mark even tells us the name of two of his sons (Mark 15:21).
 1. Alexander & Rufus.
 2. Surely, to include such detail indicates there must be an expectation of recognition by the readers.
 3. Mark was written to Gentiles and in particular, Christians in Rome.
- E. Now consider Paul's statement from (Romans 16:13).
 1. Rufus – could this be the same Rufus, the son of Simon of Cyrene?
 2. If so, his mother was also a mother to Paul.

II. A Definite Influence

- A. Not every woman can be a “mother,” but they can be a “mother to someone.”
- B. If this is Simon of Cyrene's wife, think of the ways she might have been able to be a mother to Paul.
 1. Encouragement (1 Timothy 1:15; Luke 23:34).
 2. Support.
 3. Love.
- C. One doesn't have to have children of their own to be a mother to someone.
- D. Paul was blessed to have such a relationship with a woman.

- Conclusion:
1. This sermon ends with a challenge to the women to be a mother to someone.
 2. This may be your ministry, your niche, in service to God.
 3. Heaven will surely be populated by people who were influenced by women who allowed God to use them to be a mother to others.