



The Widespread Influence of a Mother Romans 16:1-16

Today we celebrate the immediate influence of a mother.

¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.

Text Message:

- It is telling that Paul immediately thought of Rufus' mother when he mentions Rufus.
- Rufus' mother obviously had influence in Rufus' life.
- *Who was Rufus?*
- The name Rufus appears only twice in Scripture, here and during the crucifixion of Jesus:
And they compelled a passerby, Simon of Cyrene, who was coming in from the country, the father of Alexander and Rufus, to carry his cross. Mark 15:21
- Although not certain, it is likely that the two persons named Rufus are the same person.
- If so, all we know about Rufus:
 - 1) He saw his father Simon of Cyrene carry Jesus' cross.
 - 2) He became a notable person in the church.
 - 3) His mother greatly influenced him.

Today we celebrate the extended influence of a mother.

¹³ Greet Rufus, chosen in the Lord; also his mother, who has been a mother to me as well.

Text Message:

- Had Paul simply greeted Rufus and his mother, we would be left with the impression that she influenced her son *only*.
- It is what Paul adds to this that reveals that Rufus' unnamed mother not only greatly influenced her son, but that her influence extended even to the Apostle Paul.
- We are left to wonder what richness these words contain: "who has been a mother to me as well."
- *How was Rufus' mother a mother to the Apostle Paul as well?*
- Given what we know about the life of the Apostle Paul (See 1 Corinthians 11:23-27), did Rufus' mother:
 - 1) Bandage the wounds of physical trauma?
 - 2) Provide a place of safety in time of great danger?
 - 3) Meet his needs for food, clothing, or shelter?
 - 4) Give life-giving words when life was at its lowest?
- For what we do not know about Rufus' mother, it is worth contemplating that this mother had significant impact in the life of the great apostle!

Today we celebrate the unknown influence of a mother.

Text Message:

- IF Rufus' mother greatly influenced him (and she did!)...
IF Rufus' mother greatly influenced Paul (and she did!)...
- Then how much further was the influence of this single mother in ways that are unknown to us but known in heaven?
- **And for mothers today, your influence:**
In the lives of your children...
In the lives of others...
In unknown lives, yet to be revealed...

Your story and influence are still being written! Rejoice!