

“The Perfect Time to Serve God”

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1 Timothy 4.12-16

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Westby UMC & Viroqua UMC

Confirmation Sunday

The word of God says that God is no respecter of persons, it indicates that for God we are all equal in all aspects, and Service in his work is not excepted. God can use anyone as long as there is a true willingness and commitment to obey his commands.

Let's see some young people in the Bible who were instruments in the hands of God and did great things that transcended history:

The young man named Joseph. Genesis 37.1-5

Jacob lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. This is the account of Jacob's family line. Joseph, a young man of seventeen, was tending the flocks with his brothers, the sons of Bilhah and the sons of Zilpah, his father's wives, and he brought their father a bad report about them.

Now Israel loved Joseph more than any of his other sons, because he had been born to him in his old age; and he made an ornate[Ⓜ] robe for him.⁴ When his brothers saw that their father loved him more than any of them, they hated him and could not speak a kind word to him.

Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

This is the story of Jacob's family: Joseph, being seventeen years old, grazed the sheep with his brothers; and the young man was with the sons of Bilhah and with the sons of Zilpa, his father's wives; and Joseph informed his father of their bad reputation.

Joseph was just a teenager when God began to show him through dreams the complete future of his family and the nation that would come out of them, being so young he had to go through a very difficult process to fulfill his final purpose.

Joseph was sold by his brothers, thrown into a cistern and was taken to Egypt where he was a servant of Potiphar, slandered by his master's wife, he was put in jail, where he was able to decipher the dream of his fellow prisoners who were servants of Pharaoh.

Later on, Pharaoh needed someone to interpret his dreams and the cupbearer, as he had already been released from prison, as Joseph had told him, remembered him and they set him free, becoming the second in authority in Egypt and saving his entire family. when there was famine throughout the region.

In all that time of trials, Joseph maintained trust and dependence on God, he never strayed from him and was used at his time to preserve the life of his people. His youth was never an obstacle to his purpose in God.

The young man named David. 1 Samuel 17:42

He looked David over and saw that he was little more than a boy,
glowing with health and handsome, and he despised him.

It is said that David was approximately between 17 and 18 years old when he bravely faced the giant Goliath, an evil Philistine who terrified the people of Israel, David was a young man who had experienced the victories of Almighty God, "(...) Jehovah, who has given me freed from the lion's claws and the bear's claws, he will also deliver me from the hand of this Philistine (...), although David was very young he dared to face great battles, God had chosen him to be the Great King of Israel , a true worshiper who pleased the heart of God, and transcended history for his disposition and delivery in the work of God.

The young man named Timothy. 2 Timothy: 3:14-15

But as for you, continue in what you have learned and have become convinced of,
because you know those from whom you learned it, and how from infancy you have known the Holy Scriptures, which are able to make you wise for salvation through faith
in Christ Jesus

Timothy was one of the close disciples of the Apostle Paul. It is estimated that he was between 16 and 20 years old when he began to serve with the Apostle in the ministry. In

the two letters addressed to Timothy, the Apostle gives an extensive list of instructions to his disciple, so that it served in the work of God correctly.

Paul knew that many could look down on him because he was very young and that is why he warned him "No one should despise your youth, but be an example to the believers in word, conduct, love, spirit, faith and purity." Paul trusted this young man named Timothy, he had seen his true faith and his commitment to service to God.

We saw only three models who began to serve God from a very young age, but the Bible mentions many more, in such cases their age was an advantage since they had the energy, enthusiasm and vision that is lost over the years. All these characters also had something in common: they were taught in the Word of God by their parents and their community of faith, and they themselves tried to do what was necessary to strengthen their strength and to remain faithful to God's commandments.

You will ask yourself, what is next? What does the church have for me? And I ask you, what do you want? You already know the bases and you also know what is necessary to continue your formation in the church. Do not miss, come to us, participate in the activities of the church, ask, propose your ideas and your projects. Bring your friends, we want to hear from you, we want to support you.

Your age is not an impediment to serve in the work of God, on the contrary, now that you are young you have all the strength, the dreams, the passion, the courage to leave a legacy that transcends your generation, you are called to serve, this is the time for you to do it. You are a minister of God, cheer up and align yourself with the perfect will of God.