

# **Saving the Souls of Our Sons and Daughters (Lesson Five)**

(Compiled by Paul R. Blake from a lesson by Mark Copeland)

## Introduction:

- A. An apology to the young: adults have diminished and patronized you since the days of the Patriarchs. You have been underestimated, underappreciated, and underutilized to the point that you may believe what most adults think. That is, that you need to be protected from responsibility and accountability.
  - 1. I am here to challenge you to what your parents and grandparents are afraid to do. I want to show you what you are capable of and what you are accountable for.
  - 2. I want to help you to face the decision you must make and challenge you to be morally honest with yourself about why you have yet to obey the Gospel of Jesus Christ.
- B. Imagine what it would sound like if the New Testament evangelists treated their hearers with the same hesitant social politeness with which you are being treated.
  - 1. Acts 22:16, 26:27 - "Now I don't want to pressure you..."
- C. Imagine if in the Bible or in this congregation only the eldest and most experienced were useful to the Lord in His service.
  - 1. The older want to do it all in order to remain relevant and often crowd out the young when they need to be developing
  - 2. God differs from this view; He believes in the ability of the young to believe Him and follow His instructions; He used so many of them
  - 3. Paul recognized this shortsightedness in his brethren, so he told Timothy to prove that the young can rise to the challenge of the faith
  - 4. 1Tim. 4:12-16
  - 5. Young people, God believes in you, I believe in you and I know that you believe God. It is time for you to fulfill your faith with obeying the Gospel

## **I. GOD HAS ALWAYS KNOWN THAT YOUNG PEOPLE CAN BELIEVE AND OBEY**

- A. He trusted Joseph to save Israel in time of famine. He was seventeen when sold as a slave to Potiphar - Gen. 37:2
- B. He trusted David to deliver Israel from Goliath and the Philistines, even though he was just a youth - 1Sam. 17:33
- C. He trusted Josiah to restore Judah to true worship of God
  - 1. When he was eight, Josiah became a good king - 2Chron. 34:1-2
  - 2. When he was sixteen, he resolved to serve God - 2Chron. 34:3
  - 3. When he was twenty, he instituted national religious reforms - 2Ch 34:3
  - 4. When he was twenty-six, he restored the temple and Passover observance - 2Chron. 34:8; 35:18-19
- D. He trusted Jeremiah to prophesy to Judah and a worldly empire
  - 1. God told him to not say "I am a youth" - Jer. 1:4-8
- E. He trusted Daniel to reveal the sovereignty of God over the greatest emperors in the world. Daniel was likely between 12 to 15 when he was taken into

- captivity, making him between 15 to 18 when he started as Nebuchadnezzar's counselor - Dan. 1:1-5, 18-20
- F. He trusted Mary to bring the Savior into the world, who was very likely in her mid to late teens at the time - Luke 1:26-33
  - G. He trusted Timothy to preach the Gospel and appoint elders.
    - 1. Paul selected him to join him on his journeys - Acts 16:1-3
    - 2. He must have been quite young at that time, for it was fourteen years later that Paul tells him to let no one despise his youth - 1Tim. 4:12

## **II. WHAT DOES GOD KNOW YOU ARE CAPABLE OF DOING?**

- A. That you are able to resist temptation
  - 1. Like Joseph did when it would have been so easy for him to give in Gen 39:7-12
  - 2. As Timothy was instructed - 2Tim. 2:22
  - 3. Yes your hormones are running strong and you have less experience in dealing with them, but God won't tell you to do anything impossible
- B. That you are able to trust God to help you
  - 1. Like David did when fighting Goliath - 1Sam. 17:37, 45-46
- C. That you can choose proper priorities
  - 1. Like Solomon, who realized the value of wisdom - 1Kings 3:5-9
  - 2. And later exhorted his own son to seek after wisdom - Prov. 3:1-6
- D. That you can courageously do God's will
  - 1. Like Jeremiah, even though he had to be reassured - Jer. 1:6-8
  - 2. He began his ministry by preaching at the gate of the temple - Jer. 7:1-3
- E. That you can be true to your convictions
  - 1. Like Daniel, who refused to compromise his beliefs - Dan. 1:8
  - 2. And as a result found favor in the eyes of others - Dan. 1:9
- F. That you can believe in what God knows you can do
  - 1. Like Mary - Luke 1:38
  - 2. Who believed that with God nothing is impossible - Luke 1:34-37
- G. That you can become an example that silences your critics
  - 1. As Paul instructed Timothy - 1Tim. 4:12-16

### **Conclusion:**

- A. Young people, God knows that you are capable of great faith and great obedience, even though you are young.
- B. That means that in God's eyes, you are accountable to Him to believe His word and to obey His Gospel.
- C. Ecc. 11:9, 12:1