

**“LET NO MAN DESPISE
THY YOUTH”**

1 Timothy 4:12

GOD'S USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Joseph: To save Israel in time of famine...**
 - Joseph seventeen when sold as a slave to Potiphar. **Gen 37:2**

GOD'S USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **David: To deliver Israel from the Philistines...**
 - Even though he (David) was “but a youth.”
- **1 Sam 17:33**

GOD'S USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Solomon: To lead Israel to its greatest heights...**
 - When he became king, thought of himself as but “a little child” - **1 Kgs. 3:7**

GOD'S USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Josiah: To restore Judah to the true worship of God...**
 - When eight, Josiah became king, and was a good one - **2 Chron. 34:1-2**
 - When sixteen, he sought to serve God - **2 Chron. 34:3**
 - When twenty, he instituted religious reforms throughout Judah - **2 Chron. 34:3**
 - When twenty-six, he restored the temple, and the Passover - **2 Chron. 34:8; 35:18-19**

GOD'S USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Jeremiah: To prophesy to the nations...**
 - Jeremiah tried to escape his prophetic call – **Jer. 1:4-6**
 - But God told him not to say, “I am a youth,” that He would be with him – **Jer. 1:7-8**

GOD'S USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Daniel: To reveal the sovereignty of God over the nations...**
 - Daniel, was possibly twelve to fifteen when taken into Babylonian captivity - **Dan 1:3-5**
 - He was fifteen to eighteen when brought to Nebuchadnezzar and began serving as his counselor - **Dan 1:18-20**

GOD'S USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Mary: To bring the Savior into the world...**
 - Mary was but a young virgin – **Lk. 1:26-33**

GOD'S USE OF YOUNG PEOPLE

- **Timothy: To proclaim the gospel to the lost...**
 - Selected by Paul to join him on his journeys - **Acts 16:1-3**
 - Who must have been quite young, for it was over twenty years later that Paul tells him to let no one despise his youth! - **1 Tim. 4:12; Phil. 2:20**

THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOD CAN USE

- **Those willing to flee immorality...**
 - Joseph – **Gen. 39:7-12**
 - Timothy - **2 Tim. 2:22**

THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOD CAN USE

- **Those willing to trust in God...**
 - David cf. **1 Sam. 17:37,45-47**
 - David later proclaimed the value of trusting God – **2 Sam. 22:31** “As for God, his way is perfect: The word of Jehovah is tried; He is a shield unto all them that take refuge in him.”

THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOD CAN USE

- **Those willing to seek first things first...**
 - Solomon, who realized the value of wisdom - **1 Kgs. 3:5-9; cf. Prov. 3:1-6**
 - Cf. **Mt 6:33**

THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOD CAN USE

- Those willing to seek the Lord with humility...
 - Josiah, when he was eight years old
- **2 Chron. 34:3; Cf. vs. 26-28**

THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOD CAN USE

- Those willing to boldly do God's will...
 - Jeremiah, even though he had to be reassured at first- **cf. Jer. 1:6-8**
 - Began his ministry by preaching at the gate of the temple – **Jer. 7:1-7**

THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOD CAN USE

- Those willing to be true to their convictions...
 - Daniel, who refused to compromise his beliefs – **Dan. 1:8,9**
 - Shadrach, Meshach, Abednego – **Dan. 3:1-6,20-21,17,25**

THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOD CAN USE

- Those willing to humbly submit to god's will...
 - Mary - **Lk 1:38**
 - Accepted the premise that with God nothing is impossible! - **Lk 1:34-37**

THE KIND OF YOUNG PEOPLE GOD CAN USE

- Those willing to be an example to others...
1 Tim. 4:12-16
 - In Speech. Mt. 12:34-35; Eph. 4:29ff; 5:3-4; Col. 4:6; Jms. 3:5ff; Ps. 19:14
 - In Manner of Life. Phil. 1:27
 - In Love. Mt. 22:36-38,39; Rom. 13:10; Jno. 13:34-35; Rom. 12:10; Heb. 13:1; 1 Pet. 1:22; 1 Cor. 13
 - In Faith. Jms. 2:18; 2 Cor. 5:7
 - In Purity. 2 Tim. 2:1-22; Gal. 5:19; 1 Cor. 6:18;

OUR RESPONSIBILITY TO THE YOUNG

- Receive them... **Mt. 18:5; 19:14**
- Don't place stumbling blocks in their way... **Mt. 18:6-7, 10,14**
- Encourage them... **1 Cor. 16:10**
- Despise them not...
1 Cor. 16:11; 1 Tim. 4:12

CONCLUSION

- Jesus was 12 when he was about his Father's business. – **Lk. 2:41-49**
- **Are we about our Father's business?**
- Whether young or old, we should be!