



"All One In Christ"

THE UNITED CHURCH OF ZAMBIA

SYNOD MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT

2023 YOUTH WEEK LESSONS/ SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE

THEME: UNDERSTANDING THE TIMES AND WHAT TO DO-

1 CHRONICLES 12:32

SUB THEME: "BECOMING A PERSON GOD CAN GREATLY USE"

BIBLE READING: 2 TIMOTHY 2:20-26

INTRODUCTION

In a world that is fast-paced, complex, and full of anxiety, uncertainty and ever changing, many young people have felt that they are not the right age or maturity to serve the Lord. However, there are many biblical examples that show that God is interested in working through all people including young people. You don't have to wait to finish college or University degree, get married, become independent, and then be ready to serve the Lord. Age and personal merits do not matter, the only thing God needs is your availability; someone with a **heart and a life ready to serve Him**. Regardless of your age, you are able to place your life in the hands of God and allow Him to work through you. As we begin our Youth Week of prayers and as we look at this year's Youth Sunday Theme, **"Becoming a Youth God Can Use"**, we shall first of all look at Young people in the bible that did great things for God and His people.

MONDAY 6TH MARCH, 2023

LESSON 1: “FACING YOUR GIANT”

BIBLE READING: 1 SAMUEL 17:17-47

INTRODUCTION

One of the best known stories in the Bible is the story of David and Goliath. David was probably only 17 years old when this story took place. In this portion of scripture, we see David as an obedient son, a brave soldier, and, above all, a young man who fully trusted God.

BIBLE EXPLANATION

David was told by his father to take provisions to his brothers who were fighting in the Israelite army against the Philistines. When David arrived, he heard the champion of the Philistines, the giant Goliath, blaspheming the name of the God of Israel. David could not stand the fact someone would speak evil of the Lord. He was surprised that the army of Israel was **not doing something** about the **wicked threats against God**.

Young David presented himself before King Saul as someone who would go to fight Goliath one on one. David could not use the king's armor that was offered to him because it was something he was not accustomed to. Since David had battled lions and bears using his bare hands and a sling, he figured out that he would do the same to Goliath. He chose five smooth stones from the riverbed and rushed to fight Goliath. With a single stone he was able to knock the giant to the ground and then killed him.

QUESTIONS

1. Giants may be obstacles that we face in life. What is the biggest obstacle you are facing, right now?
2. When David focused on God, the giants **tumbled**; When Israel focused on his giants, they **stumbled**. Discuss this statement in light of the giant you are facing.
3. To kill the giant, one has to recognize that he/she is facing a giant on the battle front of life and as such one needs to identify who this giant is. Discuss this in detail making references to biblical texts.

CONCLUSION

In this world, we all face giants of some kind. It could be the fear of speaking in front of a crowd, some failures of the past, and many others too numerous to mention. Life is like that, for out of the routines day to day activities emerges a giant, a challenge, a mountain or a problem. Giants are insurmountable problems and issues that we face. We try to knock these giants down, but often they seem to only grow stronger with the passing of time. But like young David did, if we are to defeat the giant in our life, we must face it (giant) in the name of the Lord God Almighty. If we do that, we are able to knock down any giant no matter how strong or big it may be. David was a young man who trusted God to do great things. He is known as a young man who did great things for God. You too can be like David. Utilize your vibrancy and youthful energy to serve God.

TUESDAY 7th March, 2023

LESSON 2: “OVERCOMING TEMPTATION”

BIBLE READING: GENESIS 37:36; 39:11-20

INTRODUCTION

Joseph had been sold by his brothers into slavery. He ended up serving in the house of Potiphar, a government official and military commander.

BIBLE EXPLANATION

Joseph served in the house of Potiphar and apparently had been greatly trusted by his master. In Genesis 39:9 we read Joseph saying that he had been given stewardship over everything in the house except Potiphar’s wife. When Potiphar’s wife tempted Joseph wishing to sleep with him, he wisely resisted her advances. Though he did what was right and wise, he was falsely accused of acting inappropriately with her. The result was that he was thrown in prison (Genesis 39:11-20).

QUESTIONS

1. What is temptation?
2. What does Potiphar’s wife Symbolize?
3. What lesson can we learn from Potiphar’s wife?
4. What can we learn from Joseph’s action of running outside though falsely accused?

CONCLUSION

The story of Joseph is a good example that that shows us that even when we do the right thing, sometimes we can be falsely accused. Rumors and lies can spread fast but the truth will ultimately set you free. Just because we do what is right, it does not mean that immediately we will be praised for it. However, in the end Joseph was honored by God and justified in the sight of men for taking a stand to do right even when it was not easy nor pleasurable. Joseph feared

God and he did not allow any temptious advances from Potiphar's wife. What we see in Joseph's action is a rare example of courage, integrity and the fear of God desired especially in an evil, corrupt and adulterous generation we live in today. Truthfully speaking, there are very few who can take the stance Joseph took. Temptations are there in Life and we face them almost every day. We are encouraged to stand against such no matter how desirable they may be.

WEDNESDAY 8TH MARCH, 2023

LESSON 3: "AN OLD TESTAMENT MISSIONARY - THE LITTLE SLAVE GIRL"

BIBLE READINGS: 2 KINGS 5: 1-3

INTRODUCTION

The text for today presents a story about Naaman being healed of leprosy by God. One of the minor characters in the story is a little slave girl of whom we know almost nothing.

BIBLE EXPLANATION

The story of Namaan as an army General but with leprosy reveals our humanity limitation, weakness and need, this causes for help. A young Israelite slave girl serving her mistress in Namaan's home though insignificant appears to know the solution that would help her master. Her name is not mentioned, the one thing we know about her is that she was **concerned** for the people around her that they would know the power of God. This girl was in a land that was not her home. She was actually there against her will, yet she still loved the people God had placed around her and was willing to share what she knew about the Lord with them. When she learned that her master Naaman had leprosy, she willingly told him about God's prophet Elisha and how that God had worked through this man to heal others.

QUESTIONS

1. How would you describe Naaman before he was healed?
2. How would you describe Naaman after he was healed?
3. What brought about Naaman attitude change towards God?
4. What did it take to convince you, like Naaman, that there is no god in the world except the Lord God Almighty?
5. Discuss the importance of destiny connectors and helpers in ones life

CONCLUSION

Naaman trusted what this little girl said, went to see Elisha and was healed of his leprosy. We know nothing else about this little girl, but we know enough to presume that she loved the Lord and the people God called her to serve. She was also a trustworthy and honest servant. God never asks us to obey beyond our potential, He walks us through every step that produces trust. He is good and is always on our side. Regardless of the situation you find yourself in, always tell others about God. The little girl, though in slavery was determined to let the people who did not know God to know him. We are all encouraged to be missionaries of Gods message.

THURSDAY 9TH MARCH, 2023

LESSON 4: “AN UNCOMPROMISED FAITH”

BIBLE READING: DANIEL 3:16-30

INTRODUCTION

The biblical account of Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego, found in Daniel 3, took place around 600 years before the birth of Christ, when Nebuchadnezzar was the King of Babylon. This King was **allowed by God** to build a great empire

that took over the world, and in the process, defeated the Southern Kingdom of Judah which was being punished for its sins.

BIBLE EXPLANATION

King Nebuchadnezzar conquered and besieged Jerusalem, taking away and Jerusalem deporting many of Judah's finest citizens. Among them, were four Hebrew youths named Daniel, Hananiah, Mishael, and Azariah. The nation of Babylon made attempts to assimilate these youths into their culture. And while they did become part of the culture to a point, they refused to give up or compromise their faith in Yahweh, the one true God. They were thrown into the fiery furnace but they were committed to their faith, even when faced with painful death. It is believed that Shadrach, Meshach and Abed-nego were cast into the fiery furnace when they were between 10 and 30 years old. Because of their faith, God delivered them from this evil and in doing so, brought the king of Babylon to recognize the Sovereignty, the Mighty and Lordship of God Almighty over heaven and earth.

QUESTIONS

1. Read Daniel 3:17-18, and discuss.
2. Describe what it feels like to stand up against evil in the midst of evil doers.
3. How have you dealt with difficult situations in your life?
4. In what situations and circumstances do most Christians today compromise their faith when they face challenges?

CONCLUSION

In Daniel 1, these four young men stood up for what they believed. They were offered food and drink that was against their traditional Jewish beliefs. They had already gained favor with their captors and requested that their diet be changed to something more familiar. They stood up for their beliefs even as very young men. The result of their decision to honor the Lord with their eating habits was that God gave them knowledge and skill in learning and wisdom (Daniel 1:17).

Daniel was given an ability to understand dreams and visions. When we stand for what we know about our God, not even the fiery furnace can threaten us. God always comes to rescue those who do not compromise their faith.

FRIDAY 10/03/2023

LESSON 5: “YOUNG BOY WITH HIS LUNCH”

BIBLE READING: JOHN 6:1-15

INTRODUCTION

In our text Jesus Christ was surrounded by a multitude of about 5000 men with no mention of how many women and children there might have been. Jesus looked to His disciples for a solution to the problem that the multitude was hungry and that it was late in the day.

BIBLE EXPLANATION

Even though the situation was desperate, Christ already knew what He was planning to do (verse 6). Jesus asked Philip where they would get enough bread to feed the crowd. Philip didn't know, but doubted that it could be done with the limited resources they had. Andrew sought for a solution; he found a young boy with a meal of 5 loaves of barley loaves of bread and two small fish. The boy could have refused to give up his lunch. He could have chosen to run away when the disciple approached him and asked if he would sacrifice his meal for Jesus. Neither Andrew nor the boy knew what Christ would do, but this boy allowed the Lord to use his little gift. He trusted Christ with his possessions even though he did not know what the outcome would be.

Jesus took the food and gave thanks to God for it. He distributed the food to the disciples who took each piece they were given and started handing it out to the people around them. Surprisingly there was plenty of food to go around. When

everyone had finished eating, the disciples gathered up the food fragments and brought them back to Jesus. In the end they gathered 12 baskets full of food.

QUESTIONS

1. Why is it often difficult to give someone from the little you have?
2. Read 1 Kings 17:10 -15. What are some of the similarities between the boy giving his lunch to Jesus and the widow giving her last food to the prophet?
3. What lessons can we learn from the story of a boy who gave out his lunch to Jesus?

CONCLUSION

Like this little boy, we should be willing to hand over to the Lord anything that He requests from us. We may not know what He will do with it, but if we trust Him with our possessions and our lives, then He will do something wonderful like He did with this little lunch. Furthermore, we are encouraged to learn to share the little that we have with others.



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CHRONICLES 12:32)

SUB THEME: "BECOMING A YOUTH GOD CAN USE"

BIBLE READING: 2 TIMOTHY 2:20-26

INTRODUCTION

Youth is a frustrating time in life. It is that period when one is hardly old enough to be on his own, and yet he is feeling a sense of independence. Youths are ever attempting to find some sense of identity; that is why they sometimes act and dress so weird. The Scriptures represent youth as a time both of **danger and challenge**. Moses said that **"the imagination of man's heart is evil from his**

youth” (Gen. 8:21), and Paul admonished Timothy to “**flee youthful lusts**” (2 Tim. 2:22). But the God also recognizes the value of youth to the divine cause. Youths have energy, their hearts are filled with **visions of the future**. They can be a most valuable component in the service of God. However, God cannot use every youth unless those who meet His requirements and are willing to avail themselves in humble submission.

BIBLICAL EXPLANATION

In our text, Paul uses the illustration of vessels that are in a large house, which may be the world or the church, which is called God’s household. In this household, there are many vessels both for special purposes and common ones; there are also servants (v. 24). However, not all vessels and servants have the same usefulness.

Paul says, “So if someone cleanses himself of such behavior, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work.” There are various aspects to our usefulness including God’s sovereign choice. Romans 9:20-21 describes how God is the potter and He makes one vessel for **special purposes** and another for **common purposes**, simply out of **His sovereign choice**—based on **no merit of the person**. But in this text, the opportunity to be used or not used is based on **our actions**. We can all be used by God; however, the extent is up to us.

In the Bible, we see many vessels (People, old and young) that God used for special purposes: We have people like Abraham, Moses, Ruth, Hannah, David, Mary, the disciples, Paul etc. God divinely chose them for a special ministry, but they also **made decisions** that enabled them to be **special vessels**.

POINTS OF REFLECTION

Paul challenges Timothy, and us, to be someone God can use for special purposes. But what are the qualities of people God uses greatly?

1. Separate yourself from Ungodly Relationships

Ungodly relationships can pollute someone and take him off the direction God wants him to move in. So if someone cleanses himself of ungodly relationship, he will be a vessel for honorable use, set apart, useful for the Master, prepared for every good work. We must be approved workers who correctly handle the truth and not unapproved workers like the false teachers. Paul warns us not to be yoked together with unbelievers (2 Cor. 6:14)

2. Flee Evil and Youthful Lusts

If you want to be a youth that God can use greatly, do **not entertain** the evil passions and appetites. Be a unique youth who **does not just follow** what is trending in this world. Be independent in decision making and not just following whatever comes. Evil passions come in many forms but most importantly ride on these three channels to corrupt our minds and our lives- **the lust of the eyes, the lust of the flesh and the pride of life**. For example, the common form today is fashion. This brings in the temptation to desire such fashion, and sadly this has led many youths into many illicit activities. The Church wants to see youths who are able to flee from temptation like Joseph did, who flee from the passion of unnecessary arguments, lust, gossip, lies, confusion etc

3. Pursue Godly Character

If we are to be youths that God can use greatly, then we must pursue righteousness, faith, love and peace.

Righteousness- This refers to right behavior in conformity with God's Word which includes right thinking which ultimately leads to right action. If we are going to be used by God, we must pursue righteousness.

Faith -Those who are faithful with little can be trusted with much. God will give them more responsibility. However, we must also constantly pursue greater faith in God. Hebrews 11:6 says **“without faith it is impossible to please God.”** We must believe God’s Word and trust His promises to both please Him and accomplish His works.

Love - We should daily pursue loving God and loving others more. This includes practicing loving actions like listening, serving, and caring for others. God is love and those who serve Him must love Him and His people without any condition.

Peace - We must seek to live at peace with others (Rom 12:18). This means humbling ourselves, confessing our failures, and forgiving. Forgiveness is a tremendous stronghold that hinders our ability to be used by God

4. Pursue Godly Relationships

In order to be used by God, we must surround ourselves with godly people. Proverbs 27:17 says, **“As iron sharpens iron, so a person sharpens his friend”** and Proverbs 13:20 says, **“The one who associates with the wise grows wise.”** We can’t become godly on our own; we need to be surrounded by brothers and sisters who are **fighting to be pure** as well.

5. Become Servants

Those God uses to serve His purposes of God must be servants. A servant is totally committed to serving God and others. Selfish people focus on serving their own needs and not that of God or others and therefore can’t be used of God mightily. If you want God to use you, **stop the “Boss” mentality** because God doesn’t want bosses but servants.

CONCLUSION

Brethren, true believers are to distance themselves from the stains of wickedness for which the non- believers are known for but must be purified by fire of the

Holy Spirit and must become vessels of gold, with whom their Master will be proud to use. To be used by God, we must:

- Separate from Ungodly Relationships
- Flee Evil and Youthful Lusts
- Pursue Godly Character
- Pursue Godly Relationships
- Become Servant

Regardless of your age you are able to place your life in the hands of God and allow Him to work. God is doing, and will do, a great work in this world. He chooses to use people of all ages to accomplish His purposes. How wonderful it would be to allow Him to use us the youths to accomplish great things for Him.

God bless you all.

Amen!

**THE MISSION AND EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT WOULD LIKE TO THANK
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(2023) YOUTH WEEK/SUNDAY SERMON OUTLINE FOR THE MARCH 2023.**

FOR ANY FUTHER DETAILS GET IN TOUCH WITH THE MISSION &
EVANGELISM DEPARTMENT ON THE FOLLOWING
NUMBERS-0977-753 999/0969 -838 693/0955-883 221