

September 26, 2021

Scott's Thoughts



And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him, for you are but a youth, and he has been a man of war from his youth." 1 Samuel 17:33 (ESV)

Even though David was very young, he did powerful things because he trusted God. Timothy was a young preacher who also did powerful things. People questioned their ability to lead because of their youth. However, they were very capable.

Many men have quit, given up, and thrown in the towel for lack of encouragement. An example of discouragement happened years ago, a minister was talking to a more experienced minister about a gospel meeting and suggested that one way to help offset the cost would be for them to trade meetings. The response was, "Well, these brethren are very particular about who preaches to them." Those condescending words discouraged and hurt. Words are powerful and can make or break a young preacher's efforts.

It is common knowledge that fewer men are choosing to enter the ministry today. The outlook for this trend reversing does not look good. So, what do we do to change this terrible trend? We can build up and encourage those who have already started preaching. We need to look for leaders in the "Davids" and the "Timothies" in our congregations. Then we need to 1. Encourage 2. Encourage 3. Encourage. We need to encourage our young men to consider preaching.

Preaching is rich. Although preaching has not in the past, nor will it be in the future, a road to monetary riches. It is rich in abundant living for others. Stepping into the baptistry with the one that has taken three or four years to make this choice is rich, so is having the children of the Church call you by name when they see you in the supermarket. It is rich to be able to comfort a family when their loved one departed and hearing them say how much they appreciated your words although you were embarrassed because you felt so inadequate. Real richness is serving God with the best you have to offer. Ministers can affect lives for the better and this is richness beyond measure that no thief can ever steal.

We need to encourage our young men to speak every chance they get. For instance, when the minister must be gone on a Sunday, we need to find someone to fill in for him? Johnny, who has done the devotionals on Wednesday nights, volunteers, but this is Sunday morning. How do we respond? Some of life's greatest lessons are the simple ones spoken from a young man's heart with his youthful perspective. We need to find various opportunities to inspire young men to become the "Timothies" and preach.

Where are the "Davids" and "Timothies?" They are in our congregations. Find them. Use them. Encourage them.

Let no one despise you for your youth, but set the believers as an example in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith, in purity. 1 Timothy 4:12 (ESV)

Thanks for listening and keep on shining.

—Scott