

Wednesday's Sermon at Fellowship of Miss Conference

"THE YOUNG AND THE OLD, AT THE CHURCH 1887"

Genesis 37:1-5

1 Joseph lived in the land where his father had stayed, the land of Canaan. 2 This is the account of Joseph'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. 3 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 a robe of many colours 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. 5 Joseph had a dream, and when he told it to his brothers, they hated him all the more.

Firstly, let me locate myself in the issues of men and men. I live with my husband, (the Rev Paul Neesham), and we have two young adult sons. Basically, I live with men only, and I take care of men, both young and old. I deal with men's issues every day of my life, men's issues similar to the Prostate Cancer talk you had yesterday at the conference. So, I am doing the job of raising men, and in our house we have honest discussions about what it means 'to be a man'. And as it looks like I have a purpose and a calling around men's issues, and I'm feeling 'at home' in this conference 🍌

As I was praying for a message for this conference, God led me to this text. While this Bible passage focuses on males, this sermon is for all genders – males and females, because Jacob and his sons represent us, the people of God today, both males and females, young and old, existing in the church, and in the society.

To let me introduce this Jacob who has a son, Joseph, in his old age. He's been busy in his old age. But he decides to practice favoritism by loving Joseph more than the other 12 sons. So he makes Joseph a coat of many colours, but he hates for the other brothers. I can tell you that just with these facts alone, you know that this is not going to end well. Joseph is hated by his brothers. That's no surprise. In addition, Joseph is a dreamer of dreams that show him in a better position over his older brothers, and he decides to share his dreams with his big brothers!

There are 3 points that I will highlight from this text for us as the church. 3 points for each side – the young and the old!

(P) = Young People)

THE YOUNG	THE OLD
<p>1. HAS ACTION BUT NO KNOWLEDGE Joseph has a young active mouth 37:1-5 active mouths and active impulsive behaviours.</p> <p>37:5 will not think before they act – they act before they think!</p>	<p>1. HAS KNOWLEDGE BUT NO ACTION Jacob the old man heard the dreams, but just watched and kept things inside (v 11) 37:1-5 not intentionally sharing their knowledge, experience and wisdom.</p>