

Prepared, but not Afraid

The Story of Susanna

- Menno Simons labeled her

“...the fair, virtuous Susanna, the honorable pattern of all pious women...”

- And included her in a list of people who...

“would rather endure for a season the wrath and fury of tyrants, than sin”

- <http://www.mennosimons.net/ft026-truechristianbelief.html> (Translated by Funk)

The Opposite of 1 Timothy 3:6-7

- *“weak women, burdened with sins and led astray by various passions, always learning and never able to arrive at a knowledge of the truth”* who are captured by men who *“creep into households.”*

- I will read the story and then give comments for
 - Elders (in a general sense)
 - Young men
 - Sisters

Elders

- *Therefore let anyone who thinks that he stands take heed lest he fall. 1 Cor. 10:2*
- *Ah, shepherds of Israel who have been feeding yourselves! Should not shepherds feed the sheep?³ You eat the fat, you clothe yourselves with the wool, you slaughter the fat ones, but you do not feed the sheep.⁴ The weak you have not strengthened, the sick you have not healed, the injured you have not bound up, the strayed you have not brought back, the lost you have not sought, and with force and harshness you have ruled them. Ezek. 34:2-4*

Elders

- A warning for all men who have attained a position of respect and power.
- Age and ministry influence
 - Do not get rid of sexual temptation
 - Bring temptations to act “above the law”
- Be prepared for risky confrontations.

Us young men

- Jeremiah's commission (1:7-8)

*Do not say, 'I am only a youth';
for to all whom I send you, you shall go,
and whatever I command you, you shall speak.
Do not be afraid of them,
for I am with you to deliver you,*

Us young men

- Isaiah's curse (3:4-5)

*And I will make boys their princes,
and infants shall rule over them.*

....

*The youth will be insolent to the elder,
And the despised to the honorable.*

Us young men

- Desperate situations call for unusual action.
- Beware seeing “Daniel moments” everywhere.
- Real “Daniel moments” may cost dearly.
- Let us not seek “the standing of an elder,” but let us seek wisdom, righteousness, and devotion.

Sisters

- Know God and know the scriptures.
 - “the penalty is death” “It is better to be at your mercy than to sin against the Lord.”
 - “Susanna gave a loud shout,” (Deut. 22:23-27)
- Rejecting villainy helps the frightened.
- When you stand for sexual righteousness, you are right.