

**Fighting for our Family**  
***The Battle We Must Not Lose***

**Introduction:** As we continue the series “Fighting for our Family”—“we turn our attention to the children. (Last week: A Defense of Motherhood)

Sacred value of children to God must not be downplayed (Testimony of Scripture)

***Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, The fruit of the womb is a reward. 4 Like arrows in the hand of a warrior, So are the children of one's youth. 5 Happy is the man who has his quiver full of them; They shall not be ashamed, But shall speak with their enemies in the gate. Psalms 127:3-5 NKJV***

***At that time the disciples came to Jesus, saying, "Who then is greatest in the kingdom of heaven?" 2 Then Jesus called a little child to Him, set him in the midst of them, 3 and said, "Assuredly, I say to you, unless you are converted and become as little children, you will by no means enter the kingdom of heaven. 4 Therefore whoever humbles himself as this little child is the greatest in the kingdom of heaven. 5 Whoever receives one little child like this in My name receives Me. 6 "Whoever causes one of these little ones who believe in Me to sin, it would be better for him if a millstone were hung around his neck, and he were drowned in the depth of the sea. 7 Woe to the world because of offenses! For offenses must come, but woe to that man by whom the offense comes! Matthew 18:1-7 NKJV***

***Children's children are the crown of old men, And the glory of children is their father. Proverbs 17:6 NKJV***

***"Whoever receives one of these little children in My name receives Me; and whoever receives Me, receives not Me but Him who sent Me." Mark 9:37 NKJV***

Nehemiah 4:14 “...fight for your ...sons...your daughters...”

Setting the Context

- 586 BC—Jerusalem fell to Babylon, temple and city walls destroyed
- 539 BC—Babylon falls to Medo Persia and Cyrus (47 years later)
- 538 BC—Cyrus says “rebuild temple”
- 535—Jews return under Zerubbabel to rebuild—1<sup>st</sup> Babylonian invasion was 605 BC—70 years of exile
- 530 Temple rebuilding stops
- 520 Haggai and Zechariah prophecy

***"You looked for much, but indeed it came to little; and when you brought it home, I blew it away. Why?" says the Lord of hosts. "Because of My house that is in ruins, while every one of you runs to his own house. Haggai 1:9 NKJV***

- 458 Ezra goes to Jerusalem
- 445 BC—Nehemiah troubled about the condition of Jerusalem

Nehemiah, against great opposition, leads in the rebuilding of the walls about Jerusalem

- Enemy opposed
- “Fight for your sons and daughters!”
  - A. There are interesting parallels between the danger that confronted children then and children now.
  - B. Form my thoughts around four prevailing conditions of Nehemiah’s time—prevalent today.
  - C. Then, offer a way forward.

## **I. A Generation Without a Heritage of Holiness**

**A. Children that came from Ezra and Nehemiah had never witnessed fervent worship or passionate devotion to Yahweh.**

NOTE: Children of Babylon

**B. Ones that before were children and grandchildren of captives—still living in a land not separate—broken down wall was a constant reminder that the people of God had been assimilated into the godless culture.**

NOTE: Supposed to be set apart, holy and separate.

**C. That is where we are today!**

1. Respect for the house of worship (behavior, dress)
2. Devotion to the Word of God (Scripture, curriculum, study, personal time)
3. Commitment to theology in music (Christ-centered, not human centered)
4. Confidence in the power of prayer (thoughts, vibes, parental examples)
5. Priority of the church (Love Jesus but not His bride)

A generation without a heritage of holiness!

Fight for your sons and daughters!

## II. A Religion Without a Passion for Worship

### A. Many years in exile

- Little worship
- Powerful word picture

***By the rivers of Babylon, There we sat down, yea, we wept When we remembered Zion. 2 We hung our harps Upon the willows in the midst of it. 3 For there those who carried us away captive asked of us a song, And those who plundered us requested mirth, Saying, "Sing us one of the songs of Zion!" 4 How shall we sing the Lord's song In a foreign land? Psalms 137:1-4 NKJV***

(Willows grow by the river)

### B. Now returned home—some not at all

- Not excited about rebuilt temple
- Nothing compared to before

***In the seventh month, on the twenty-first of the month, the word of the Lord came by Haggai the prophet, saying: 2 "Speak now to Zerubbabel the son of Shealtiel, governor of Judah, and to Joshua the son of Jehozadak, the high priest, and to the remnant of the people, saying: 3 'Who is left among you who saw this temple in its former glory? And how do you see it now? In comparison with it, is this not in your eyes as nothing. Haggai 2:1-3 NKJV***

### C. Had lost their passion for worship

1. Religious by name
2. Fervor gone
3. Would continue for 400 years
4. By the time of Christ—spiritually dry
5. Religion—no passion

### D. It's a danger today—passing on a lifeless religion

1. Want the old days
2. Attitude forbidden by Scripture

***Do not say, "Why were the former days better than these?" For you do not inquire wisely concerning this. Ecclesiastes 7:10 NKJV***

(ILL) Altar time as a young person—not that but a new passion

Fight for your sons and daughters!

### **III. An Enemy Without Restraint**

Fight for your sons and daughters!

***Now it happened, when Sanballat, Tobiah, the Arabs, the Ammonites, and the Ashdodites heard that the walls of Jerusalem were being restored and the gaps were beginning to be closed, that they became very angry, 8 and all of them conspired together to come and attack Jerusalem and create confusion. Nehemiah 4:7-9 NKJV***

A. A unity in the church that began to develop a few decades ago has stirred up our enemy

(Babel/Pentecost)

B. The shortness of time before Christ has stirred up our enemy

***So the great dragon was cast out, that serpent of old, called the Devil and Satan, who deceives the whole world; he was cast to the earth, and his angels were cast out with him. 10 Then I heard a loud voice saying in heaven, "Now salvation, and strength, and the kingdom of our God, and the power of His Christ have come, for the accuser of our brethren, who accused them before our God day and night, has been cast down. 11 And they overcame him by the blood of the Lamb and by the word of their testimony, and they did not love their lives to the death. 12 Therefore rejoice, O heavens, and you who dwell in them! Woe to the inhabitants of the earth and the sea! For the devil has come down to you, having great wrath, because he knows that he has a short time." Revelation 12:9-12 NKJV***

1. Intensity of the battle today is great
2. Aimed at young people
  - a. Rejection of truth in liberal education
  - b. Rejection of authority
  - c. Rejection of a moral compass

Consider:

Average teen suicide—age 15

Average age of sexual activity—11-12

½ of marriages end in divorce

Slaughter of millions of babies on the altar of choice and convenience

- C. Parents are investing in sports, media, leisure
- D. We have an enemy—fight for your sons and daughters

#### IV. A Comfort Without an Urgency

***"Is it time for you yourselves to dwell in your paneled houses, and this temple to lie in ruins?" Haggai 1:4 NKJV***

A. Have fallen asleep—no longer urgent about Kingdom business

1. So comfortable
2. So at ease

***Woe to you who are at ease in Zion, And trust in Mount Samaria, Notable persons in the chief nation, To whom the house of Israel comes! Amos 6:1 NKJV***

B. Complacency is a dangerous thing for the church

1. Assimilate into culture
2. Luke warmth—Laodicea (Lyew Valley)—Western Turkey
  - a. NE 6 miles—Hierapolis—hot springs
  - b. SE 6 miles—Colossae—cool springs

***"I know your works, that you are neither cold nor hot. I could wish you were cold or hot. 16 So then, because you are lukewarm, and neither cold nor hot, I will vomit you out of My mouth. Revelation 3:15-16 NKJV***

3. Lost our urgency amidst our comfort—generation lost!

Fight for your sons and daughters!

**Conclusion:** Nehemiah stood on the wall! Fight!

A way forward—Fighting for our sons and daughters!

1. Commit to fight for them (Moses delivered from bondage, Noah/flood, Joseph/starvation, David/giant, Esther/King, Abraham/Lot, Ruth/Naomi, Jarius/daughter)

What will you do?

2. Begin training early

***Train up a child in the way he should go, And when he is old he will not depart from it. Proverbs 22:6 NKJV***

3. Guard them tenaciously

***But if anyone does not provide for his own, and especially for those of his household, he has denied the faith and is worse than an unbeliever. 1 Timothy 5:8 NKJV***

Need protectors—(porn, ungodly fashion, boys, girls, counterfeit worship)

4. Defend them shamelessly

(Advocate, fairly)

5. Champion them consistently

***So I run with purpose in every step. I am not just shadowboxing. 1 Corinthians 9:26-27 New Living Translation***

(Role model of godliness)

***Therefore be careful to observe them; for this is your wisdom and your understanding in the sight of the peoples who will hear all these statutes, and say, 'Surely this great nation is a wise and understanding people.' 7 "For what great nation is there that has God so near to it, as the Lord our God is to us, for whatever reason we may call upon Him? 8 And what great nation is there that has such statutes and righteous judgments as are in all this law which I set before you this day? 9 Only take heed to yourself, and diligently keep yourself, lest you forget the things your eyes have seen, and lest they depart from your heart all the days of your life. And teach them to your children and your grandchildren. Deuteronomy 4:6-9 NKJV***

6. Pursue them patiently (prodigal)

- a. Point them to Jesus more than away from their sin.
- b. Welcome them home—cover their transgressions.
- c. Don't expect them to be holy if they can't see Jesus.
- d. Plead more than rebuke.

7. Pray—"the greatest tranquilizer to fear is found at the throne!"

QUESTION:

What kind of nation will be left for future generations? Will we settle for a place where millions of babies are slaughtered and Christians are denied the right to publically display their faith?

Step into the ring and fight! Don't sit in the shadows while families are being destroyed!

Remember the Lord! Fight for your sons and daughters!