

Waging War For The Family

(Lesson 1)

Nehemiah 4:13-15

Objective

This lesson is designed to expose listeners to their responsibility to become a spiritual warrior for their family members and for the overall welfare of the family. Further, it is my intent with this teaching to provide a systematic plan for waging war for the family.

Introduction

Our text story illustrates the call of men and women to fight for the wellbeing of the family. Nehemiah has gone to Jerusalem and found the people in a destitute reproachable condition. He builds their self-esteem and it aggravates their enemies who threaten to attack them in order to hinder their progress. Nehemiah encouraged the people to fight for their families, their homes, their sons and daughters. We can also look at the family in *Luke 15*, the prodigal son shows a family in distress. It is clear that the family is under attack and someone has to wage war for the family. Further, when we look at the many people who came to Jesus for ministry to family members, shows their willingness to wage war for their family. We need to understand why the devil vehemently attacks the family and what we can do to save our families.

Point #1: The Importance of the Family *Joshua 24:15*

**Definition of Family – a nurturing crucible of intimate relationship bound by common elements and purposes which provide instruction, direction, protection, celebration, support and fulfillment!*

A. The Divine Plan for the Family – *Acts 16:31; Acts 11:13-14*

**When you understand the role God has for the family in the scope of developing His creation and social order for mankind, it is clear to see why the family is in the devil's crosshairs!*

1. Nurturing For Basic Emotional Needs – Jesus Family Assurance Acceptance Affirmation Adventure Acknowledgement Affection Allegiance
 2. Protection During Times of Vulnerability – Moses Mother
 3. Forgiveness and Restoration Upon Genuine Repentance – Prodigal Family
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4. Support and Encouragement to Excel and Achieve – Jethro advice to Moses
5. Place where one can make a contribution in the lives of others **Genesis 1:26**

B. The Divine Purposes of the Father *Gen. 18:19 Ps. 78:4-7*

1. God uses the natural family to model the experience in the spiritual family
2. God uses families as a launching pad for divine destined and generational assignments

Point #2: The Invasion of the Family 2 Corinthians 2:11

**The family is under serious attack when satan convinces someone in the family that they are being mistreated and victimized. This was the misconception of the prodigal's brother. He honestly felt he had been disrespected and mistreated because the father welcomed the lost son back into the family. Satan works overtime to sow discord into family relationships to bring offence so that victimization can take place.*

A. The Encroachments of Satan Revealed

**Our empowerment to exercise victory over satan is based on the authority delegated to us through the name of Jesus and the blood of Jesus.*

1. We are Instructed to Engage Satan Not Avoidance... Believe the Word!!!!
 - a. **Mark 16:17** b. **Luke 10:17** c. **James 4:7** d. **2 Corinthians 12:7-9**
2. We are Instructed through Examples of Satanic Attacks **John 10:10 1 Peter 5:8-9**
 - a. The Woman whose child was vexed got the victory **Matthew 15:22**
 - b. The Man whose child was possessed got the victory **Mark 9:17-27**
 - c. Job was under attack but he got the victory **Job 1:11-12**
 - d. Peter was under attack but bless God he got the victory **Luke 22:31-32**

B. The Established Strategies Recorded

**Scripture warns us of attacks from demonic spiritual forces which we have been equipped to overcome victoriously. Examples in ministry of Jesus encourage us!*

Matthew 15:22 Mark 9:17-27

1. Common Attack of Sicknesses... Scripture shows some illnesses have satanic origin
 2. Common Attack of Stresses... Satan magnifies difficulties to bring destructive stresses
 3. Common Attack of Sufferings... Sufferings of loved ones is taxing on the family
 4. Common Attack of Shortages... Insufficiency often effects self-worth and esteem
 5. Common Attack of Struggles... Seemingly endless taxing be relationship struggles
 6. Common Attack of Suicides... The persuasive demonic voices can be silenced.
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7. Common Attack of Suspicions... The unwarranted but real suspicion dart causes unrest

**You must not be duped into believing that these attacks are the will of God and refuse to resist!*

Point #3: The Intercession for the Family

**The anchoring truth that faith rests upon is that of our reliance on the supernatural power of God and His willingness to aide us in our criteria for what we believe. If the criteria for our hope resides on anything other than the Word of God it is a flawed criteria which will be challenged by bad reports, setbacks and statistical facts.*

A. Intercessory Prayer Mandate

When we go to God in prayer we are engaging in a form of Spiritual Warfare. We must learn to fight in our prayer time and call for divine help to deliver those we love who are under attack. Our intercession should never be mistaken as being passive rather we must be convinced that prayer does bring supernatural changes... **James 5:14-15 Ezekiel 22:30 (God is looking for Gap Standers)*

**Definition of Intercessory Prayer is going to God on behalf of another fueled by the compassion of Jesus!*

1. Old Testament Examples: Moses **Exodus 32:7-14** (he stands in the gap for Israel)
2. New Testament Example **Acts 12:2-7**
3. Every act of men coming to Jesus for another is an example of intercessory prayer

B. Intercessory Petitions Matter – 1 John 5:14; John 16:23

***Ask the Father *Ask According to His will *Ask in Jesus Name *Ask with Thanksgiving**

1. Demonic Cancellations... Waging war cancels demonic strategies **Luke 10:17**
 2. Destiny Connections... Waging war to establish relationships and connections
 3. Divine Consciousness... Waging war to believe others develop divine consciousness
 4. Dispel Confusion... Waging war comes against confusion and declares peace
 5. Deliverance from Calamity... Waging war believes for protection and release from evil
 6. Discover Contentment... Waging war prays for emotional wellbeing of others
 7. Discerning Counsel... Waging war prays that others will be open to counselors
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Conclusion

When the first realization of one's obligations to stand in faith for positive resolution of family problems there is a rush of hope that soon subsides. To see victory you must be willing to make a long term commitment of prayer and patience in order to effect change. His grace is sufficient and His strength is made perfect in weakness! I'm reminded of a story of the great apostle Paul shortly after his conversion. He had become a threat to the religious establishment and they had a plan to kill him. His new found Christian family discovered the plan helped Paul escape. It's a picture of intercession, waging war to help others. They put the young preacher, whose destiny was being threatened, in a basket and let him down the city wall to safety and escape. Get the picture these were rope holders symbolizing those of us who hold the rope of prayer for those in our family. Here are several points about this unique prayer commitment.

1. They held the rope at night... In the dark time of family distresses
 2. They held on not knowing if others had let go... You might be the only one
 3. They held on until Paul was safe at the base of the wall... Hang in there
 4. They held on without any mentioning of their names... This is covert kingdom work
 5. They experienced the blessing of Paul one day holding the rope for them... Payback is certain!
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