Introduction: A new way of life

Jesus launched a whole new way of life and a culture that had never existed before in history. In the Church, as the New Testament states, *"there's neither Greek nor Jew, Barbarian, Scythian, slave, or free."* It was the only place where all those people could come together in total equality under Christ as the head, with each person viewed as made in the image of God.

Question:

When evil and division are destroying your nation, what can you do to point people to the one solution, which is Jesus?

Historical context:

- 600 years before Jesus, Israel had become incredibly wealthy and prosperous. With prosperity came complacency; the people didn't actively reject God, but they got busy with life and slowly drifted into a lifestyle where they valued other things more than God for their security.

- The drift became so broken that the nation was practicing child sacrifice to the pagan idol Molech, engaging with male sex prostitutes, and setting up demonic shrines right outside Solomon's Temple, making spiritual revival look completely impossible.

- Throughout history, when nations turn from God, He always places a faithful remnant. If that remnant stays faithful, their obedience can actually spare the whole nation from judgment.

- This specific remnant was led by Jeremiah, the "weeping prophet," who wept over the destructive trajectory of his nation and his buddy Zephaniah. Together, they stayed faithful and called the nation to return to God despite being mocked and made fun of.

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Seek the LORD, all you humble of the land, you who do what He commands. Seek righteousness, seek humility; perhaps you will be sheltered on the day of the LORD's anger. Zephaniah 2:3

- A young man named Josiah was listening to the prophet Zephaniah, and when the king was unexpectedly killed, Josiah was crowned king, followed Zephaniah's plea to return to God, and led the entire nation back to God.

Before him there was no king like him, who turned to the LORD with all his heart and with all his soul and with all his might, according to all the Law of Moses, nor did any like him arise after him. 2 Kings 23:25

- Revival comes through the next generation… after an older generation has pointed them to God.

3 Ways to ignite the next generation toward lasting revival:

1. _____, _____, and _____ toward Christ and Scripture, with love.

5 Love the LORD your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength. 6 These commandments that I give you today are to be on your hearts. 7 Impress them on your children. Talk about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.

Deuteronomy 6:5-7

- Revival outlasts us when we train up today's young people to be tomorrow's Christ-centered leaders. We are preparing them to go serve Christ in every corner of culture, industry, and vocation of our nation.

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2. _____ "Kingdom first" living.

- If you want to be part of nation-changing revival, it starts in your heart, and then you model it out for the next generation.

Only be careful, and watch yourselves closely so that you do not forget the things your eyes have seen or let them fade from your heart as long as you live. Teach them to your children and to their children after them.

Deuteronomy 4:9

Tell it to your children, and let your children tell it to their children, and their children to the next generation.

Joel 1:3

3. _____ the next generation in your local church.

Conclusion:

Live such good lives among the pagans that, though they accuse you of doing wrong, they may see your good deeds and glorify God on the day He visits us.

1 Peter 2:12

Discussion Questions:

1. Who is an older believer who intentionally invested in your faith, and what specific values did they pass down to you?

2. John challenged everyone to "get off the sidelines and get on the front lines." What is a specific distraction or media habit you need to limit this week to free up time and energy for things that matter eternally?

3. The next generation does what we *do*, not just what we *say*. If a friend or family member looked exclusively at your calendar and budget from the past month, what would they conclude is the ultimate priority of your life?

4. Who is a young person in your immediate circle that could be spiritually impacted for years to come if you choose to step into a mentoring or supportive role today? What is your very next step to encourage them?

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