

## **Bad Blood – Fight for the Family**

*The enemy of our souls has put a target on the family. His laser is zeroed in and the sniper is pulling the trigger – stealing, killing, and destroying. He wants to create “Bad Blood” – he wants to destroy future generations by sowing iniquity into bloodline of believers; But, we have a promise, God said He has a plan for our sons and daughters. Today we are going to jump back into the ring and go to war with satanic powers that seek to take our children and destroy our home. We are going to fight for our families!*

### **The Story of Rizpah...**

- Most of us have probably never heard of Rizpah before. She only shows up in this passage, and we don't hear her talked about as much as some of the other mothers in the Bible.
- **RIZPAH means “HOT STONE”** - Rizpah had to be a beautiful and intelligent young woman that king Saul loved.
- Rizpah was a concubine and she bore Saul two sons - Armoni and Mephibosheth
- Saul had many sons, the most famous was Jonathan. Saul's sons were born to royal princesses and had higher status than the concubine's children. When Saul approaches Mt. Gilboa he and his three sons born to the royal wives all died that day.
- Saul had a general named Abner, which means: “light.” Abner tried to keep “Saul's kingdom” in power after Saul's death. Abner, was Saul's cousin. he claimed the power by using a claim through Ishboseth's family line through Saul. Ishboseth was the fourth son of Saul, so he was next in line to rule. Abner was Saul's cousin, and he used this young man as his claim to the Saul's throne.
- Abner was accused of taking Rizpah as his wife to strength his claim to Saul's throne. It appears in history that maybe Abner and Rizpah was establishing a claim to Saul's throne.
- Abner was assassinated by Joab, David's general, because Abner had no claim whatsoever to the throne. Joab knew David was the next anointed king of Israel.

2 Samuel 21:1-6 - During the reign of David, there was a famine for three successive years; so David sought the face of the Lord. The Lord said, “It is on account of Saul and his blood-stained house; it is because he put the Gibeonites to death.” The king summoned the Gibeonites and spoke to them....David asked them, “What shall I do for you? How shall I make amends so that you will bless the Lord's inheritance?” The Gibeonites answered him, “We have no right to demand silver or gold from Saul or his family, nor do we have the right to put anyone in Israel to death.” “What do you want me to do for you?” David asked. They answered the king, “As for the man who destroyed us and plotted against us so that we have been decimated and have no place anywhere in Israel, let seven of his male descendants be given to us to be killed and exposed before the Lord at Gibeah of Saul – the Lord's chosen one.” So the king said, “I will give them to you.”

- Rizpah lost her sons due to the sinful actions of Saul, God's judgment on the land, and the Gibeonites' desire for revenge. This was a tragic loss of Rizpah's sons, as is the loss of any child.

Let me stop here and make a few sensitive comments...

### **The loss of a child is unlike other losses**

- It's been said: "A wife who loses a husband is called a widow. A husband who loses a wife is called a widower. A child who loses his parents is called an orphan. There is no word for a parent who loses a child. That's how awful the loss is."
- The loss of a child is something we carry with us all our lives. I met a man who lost three of his sons in one night. During our first few minutes together, he brought the faded, worn-out photograph of his children out of his wallet – his child, who had died almost fifty years before.
- The Bible describes the loss of children in many places.
  - o We read of Jacob's response when he believed that his son Joseph had been killed: "Then Jacob tore his clothes, put on sackcloth and mourned for his son many days. 35 All his sons and daughters came to comfort him, but he refused to be comforted. 'No,' he said, 'in mourning will I go down to the grave to my son.' So his father wept for him." (Genesis 37:34-35)
  - o When Naomi lost both of her sons and returned home, she told her fellow villagers: "Don't call me Naomi, call me Mara, because the Almighty has made my life very bitter. 21 I went away full, but the Lord has brought me back empty." (Ruth 1:20-21)
  - o David's response when he lost his son Absalom contains some of the most heart-rending words recorded in all Scripture, indeed in all literature: "O my son Absalom! My son, my son Absalom! If only I had died instead of you – O Absalom, my son, my son!" (2 Samuel 18:33)
- We know that our parents and grandparents will grow old and eventually pass away. It's the natural order of things. We mourn the passing of our siblings when they die, but they are closer in age to us. We know when we get married that unless we pass at the same time, one of us will outlive the other. But the loss of a child is unlike other losses. Children are supposed to outlive their parents. No parent should have to bury a child.

### **The loss of a child is individual and unique**

- Proverbs 14:10 - "Each heart knows its own bitterness, and no one else can share its joy."
  - o Your loss is unique because every situation is unique, even if there may be similar circumstances.

- Your loss is unique because each person grieving is unique, and none of us grieves in exactly the same way.
  - Even a husband and wife may grieve the loss of their child in different ways.
  - And your loss is unique because your child was unique. They are a precious individual created in God's image, and their loss is like no other.
- No one knows another's sorrow. This is why it is not helpful to tell someone who is grieving, "I know exactly how you feel." Even if you may have gone through a similar loss, it's not helpful, because it's not true. It is better to say something along the lines of: "I too have gone through times of grief. And although I can never know exactly what you are feeling right now, my heart breaks for you and your sorrow."

**If you have lost a child, I would like you to stand all over this sanctuary...Let me now share the rest of Rizpah's story and deliver the message of the hour...**

2 Samuel 21:7-10 - The king spared Mephibosheth son of Jonathan, the son of Saul, because of the oath before the Lord between David and Jonathan son of Saul. But the king took Armoni and Mephibosheth, the two sons of Aiah's daughter Rizpah, whom she had borne to Saul, together with the five sons of Saul's daughter Merab, whom she had borne to Adriel son of Barzillai the Meholathite. He handed them over to the Gibeonites, who killed and exposed them on a hill before the Lord. All seven of them fell together; they were put to death during the first days of the harvest, just as the barley harvest was beginning. Rizpah daughter of Aiah took sackcloth and spread it out for herself on a rock. **From the beginning of the harvest till the rain poured down from the heavens on the bodies, she did not let the birds of the air touch them by day or the wild animals by night.**

### **1. Rizpah's children died as a direct result of the sins and decisions of government leadership**

- The politicians and the progressives, Democrats and Republicans, educators, and the elite – these are the liberal lunatics that are driving our society are sowing the seeds of destruction into the nuclear family because they think they know better than God.
- They have devalued the sanctity of life and the holiness of the marriage covenant. They have empowered, instructed, and even weaponized children against the authority and influence of parental leadership, instead of standing behind parents to raise their children in the fear and admonition of the Lord.
- Anyone who care about what happens to the world (and especially about what happens to their children) are at least vaguely and persistently aware of the pressure being placed upon them to conform to the 'values' of a world that seems to be value-free.
- We realize that there seem to be no major influence in society that *favors* the family; every public entity seems to be either overtly hostile or indifferent to their values and their dreams.

- Most Christian parents may be befuddled and perhaps overwhelmed by the tidal wave of immorality and death that is sweeping over the world in all of its myriad forms. Our nation and all other "developed" countries, it seems not only accept sinful and immoral behavior, they *exult* in it. Their citizens joyfully *wallow* in every imaginable type of perversion: Abortion, infanticide, euthanasia, homosexuality, pornography, and every other activity that actively works against a strong family life.
- Since about 1930, the family has come under increasing scrutiny and attack all over the world.
- In Western ("developed") nations, social engineers have criticized, undermined, and even redefined the family in order to achieve their ends. And, concurrent with the weakening of the American family, the United States has exported its anti-family attitudes to almost every developing nation in the world.
- The fundamental reason that the family is now under such vicious attack is extremely simple. **The family is the cornerstone and the foundation of our society.**
- The new Neofeminist/Neoliberal vision for the world they call a "new society" cannot be constructed if the cornerstone of the old society remains. Before a new structure can be built on the ruins of the old, the old foundation must first be broken up and then removed piece by piece, just as a sturdy and antiquated building must be destroyed to make way for a new skyscraper.
- **Christian parents must recognize that the anti-life / anti-family mentality that drives all immoral sexual activities is fundamentally revolutionary and coercive.**
- The homosexuals, abortionists, the neo-progressives will never stop evolving in their desires, and they will certainly never cease demanding. If Christians think that anti-lifers will be satisfied with abortion on demand, with "gay rights," with school-based clinics, and with "death with dignity," they are kidding themselves.
- The neo-liberal movement say that all they want is equality. **This is unmitigated garbage, spewed out for public consumption.** The anti-lifers strive *not* for equality, but for *identity*.

**There are five great teachers of morality in our society: The schools, the law, the media, the Church, and the family.**

1. The schools have been effectively neutralized as moral teachers, and, in fact, are probably the greatest enemies of morality in our country today.
2. The law has been neutralized as a moral teacher. The most hideous and evil acts have been legalized, and so the law's traditional role as guide has been subverted by the same people who claim that "whatever is legal is *de facto* moral."

3. The media has not only been neutralized, it has become a most powerful weapon of the Neoliberal social engineers. All Christian values are mocked and denigrated, and all perversions and anti-life practices are held up as the pluralistic ideal. The Bundys and the Simpsons now represent the media ideal of the typical American family.
4. The fourth teacher the Church has been neutralized because it has voluntarily given up its role as the country's moral leader. The devastatingly effective Neoliberal strategy of infiltration and subversion has transformed most of the mainline Protestant churches into spiritual eunuchs and has completely isolated those few real Christians of all denominations. The Church is now a virtual ward of the State, controlled by its tax-exempt status and the desire to conform to those values transmitted to society by the State's Humanistic leaders, afraid to speak the truth for fear of offending one of the proliferating 'victim' groups designated by society.
5. Since the schools, the law, the media, and the Church are either sitting on the sidelines or are actively working to undermine morality, **The only remaining entity that has a hope of restoring sanity to this nation is the family.** With all the other 'players' out of the game, the family must now bear the full brunt of Neoliberal fury.

**But to this demonic ideology the church must stand up and be counted... Beloved its time to fight for our families; In our house, In the school house, In the church house, In the white house**

## **2. Rizpah refused to let the culture vultures eat her children**

- I started this message by first recognizing the pain of the loss of a child. Beloved I believe that many of us are losing our children right now even though they are living underneath our roofs.
- The culture vultures are circling right now above the American family desiring to pick away at the flesh of our children. Like Rizpah, it is time for us to put on sackcloth and ashes to stand watch over their bodies day and night and fight away the wild beast who want to take them away into captivity.

**The vultures are circling...**

**The Religious Freedom Index reports...**

- 61% of Gen Z (under 30) says that religion is the source of all our problems
- 63% say that people of the *Christian faith* are source of our problems
- Only 38% say that they believe in the Biblical view of marriage

- 64% believe that we should not be free to share our faith with others

### ***Barna's Survey of Church Going Americans...***

- Less than 1/2 of all believers live according to orthodox Christian beliefs
- only 47% of churchgoers believe that when you die you go to heaven only because of confessing your sins and accepting Jesus Christ as savior.
- 53% of churchgoers believe that there are many ways to heaven other than Jesus
- 59% of churchgoers do not believe that humans are born in sin and can only be saved from their sin by the redemptive work of Christ
- 52% of churchgoers do not believe that there are moral absolutes
- 56% say that God accepts the worship of all religions including Hinduism, Jehovah's witness, and Islam.
- 43% say that Jesus isn't really God but just a man
- 38% of churchgoers believe that religion is a matter of personal opinion and should not be based on the concept of absolute truth.

**Meanwhile with approximately 8 billion people on the earth only 2.6 billion claimed to be Christian. If that is true ladies and gentlemen that means that 70% of the world's population is going to hell according to the teachings of Jesus Christ. 300 thousand people die every day and enter to eternal torment!**

**How is this affecting the family? 40% of children who live in America are born to single mothers. The United States has the highest rate of children living to single parent homes. 90% of welfare recipients are single mothers who are struggling to make it. 25% of all tax revenue goes to supporting broken families like this.**

**The vultures are circling... it is time to fight for our family!**

Parents I want you to understand that the souls of your children, their eternal destiny, is hanging in the balance and 100% dependent on you keeping the vultures away. Parents you must rise up and once again get passionate about having Jesus as the central figure of your home. You must lead the way spiritually or one day you will stand over their bodies as the vultures have picked the flesh off their bones. Do not allow the devil nor this culture to have your children. Fight for your family!

I understand that you and your families are extremely busy. That you have hobbies that you enjoy. I believe that every child needs a well-rounded life and needs to be involved in extracurricular activities to build community into their nature. But in the midst of all of our doing we need to make sure then we keep the House of God as a priority. I want to take a

moment right now and share with you the importance of having your children in church where they hear the word of God and teaching them the word of God at home:

- 50% of all Christians accepted Jesus before 10
- 25% of them accepted Christ between the ages of 10 and 17
- 75% of believers accept Christ before they are 18 years old
- 11% receive Christ between the ages of 18 to 24
- only 8% receive Christ between the ages of 25 to 34
- only 6% receive Christ above the age of 35
- The chances of a person getting saved after the age of 65 is 1 in 750,000
- 4 out of 5 church leaders in America today say they grew up in church and received Christ before they were 12 years old.

If we are going to impact this generation, we have to do it before they're 18 years old. That's the reason this church must be about the father's business and pour resources, time, and energy into the children and youth.

### **3. Rizpah's fight for her family got the attention of the King**

These are promises that you can lay claim personally - as you proclaim them in prayer or as faith declarations over your children. Remember, the Bible tells us in James 5:16 that the prayers of a righteous man or woman avails much or as the Amplified version says: The earnest (heartfelt, continued) prayer of a righteous man makes tremendous power available [dynamic in its working]. Know this, you are a righteous person if you have made Jesus the Lord of your life.

**Acts 16:31 "Believe on the Lord Jesus Christ, and you will be saved (salvation, deliverance and healing), you and your household (this includes your children)."**

**Psalm 115:14 "May the LORD give you increase more and more, you and your children."**

**Psalm 112:1-2 "Blessed is the man who fears the LORD, who delights greatly in His commandments. His descendants will be mighty on earth; the generation of the upright will be blessed."**

**Proverbs 20:7 "The righteous man walks in his integrity; His children are blessed after him."**

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

**Isaiah 49:25 “For I will contend with him who contends with you, And I will save (defend, preserve, rescue, deliver) your children.”**

I decree there will be no *Bad Blood* in your family – Jesus will be Lord in your house and you will see your whole household serving Jesus!