

RESTORATION MINISTRIES INTERNATIONAL

Prophetic Insight

8/4/2020 “Therefore we must pay much more careful heed to the things we have heard, lest we drift away”

Please Avoid The Hezekiah Travesty (Part 1)

Dear Friends in Jesus Christ our Lord,

In this Insight and three to follow we’re focusing especially on Baby Boomers (born 1946 to 1964) and the Silent Generation (born 1928 to 1945). Much that has happened to dismantle this nation took place during our watch as parents and grandparents. Excusing ourselves while blaming the next generations for the current mess isn’t prudent — and neither do excuse or blame have merit in our heavenly Father’s sight.

Generally speaking, Baby Boomers and the Silent Generation have sought and procured the greatest amount of creature comforts of any generation in this nation’s history. It’s we seniors who pursued the things of this world like no others have, and in so doing, we instilled an illusion of personal comfort as an inalienable right in the generations after us.

It comes down to this: We collectively failed to be prudent in raising our children. In our eager friendship with the world’s goals and values, we who say we follow Jesus made them enemies of our Father (see James 4:4). Even more tragic, we failed to instill in our children and grandchildren an uncompromising love for Him and obedient trust in Him (see 1John 2:15,16). Look at the sorry result of our collective lack of prudent precaution:

- The Silent generation had a 65% Biblical literacy rate.
- Baby Boomers had a 35% Biblical literacy.
- Generation Z (Born 1997-current) has less than 4% Biblical literacy.

The Boomers and the Silent Generation not only zealously pursued the things of this world themselves; they also taught their children to do likewise. And Boomers and the Silent Generation role modeled the pursuit of worldly success and material security for their children with far more gusto than they ever emphasized a life of love-grounded obedient trust in the Lordship of Jesus.

We can’t be like Hezekiah to our children and our grandchildren

In his earlier years King Hezekiah trusted and obeyed God with unprecedented fervor. We’re told that the Lord was with him and that *“he was successful in whatever he undertook”* (2Kings 18:7). But then a life-threatening ailment came upon him. The prophet Isaiah let him know that he was going to die, but Hezekiah couldn’t accept that. He cried bitterly before God, Who relented and extended his life by 15 years. That extension should have been a wonderful opportunity for Hezekiah to grow in wisdom and humility before God. But that wasn’t the case.

Not long after his healing, envoys from Babylon came to visit. But rather than lifting up the God of Israel before these men who didn’t know Him, Hezekiah proudly showed off to his guests all his vast storehouses, his treasury and his armory. He made sure he overwhelmed them with his riches! But from God’s perspective, the king had sinned in his self-lionizing pride. God sent the prophet Isaiah to Hezekiah with this severe warning of the fate his descendants would suffer because of his arrogance:

“Some of your descendants, your own flesh and blood who will be born to you, will be taken away, and they will become eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon” (2Kings 20:18).

You would think that the king would be grieved enough by that prophecy to repent after he learned what would happen to his descendants. But he didn't. Instead, he responded with a selfish travesty which revealed his deep-seated concern only for himself:

*“‘The word of the LORD you have spoken is good,’ Hezekiah replied. For he thought, ‘**Will there not be peace and security in my lifetime?**’” (2Kings 20:19).*

We hear this same flawed, self-justifying rationale in many older folks today. Each responds with a similar excuse when it comes to how they raised their children: “I did all I could.” Our reply is, “No, you didn't!” And, we strongly encourage you to not even allow yourself to think this travesty: “I'll be dead before all the really bad stuff happens in this nation.”

Collectively as older generations, our parenting lacked prudent precaution, and God's Word is our prosecutor:

“If anyone, then, knows the good they ought to do and doesn't do it, it is sin for them” (James 4:17).

OUR NATION NEEDS TO REPENT, AND IT SHOULD BEGIN WITH THE BOOMER AND THE SILENT!

No matter whether you're of the Boomer or Silent generation, consider that God may be keeping you alive to help you undo the damage that your unbridled quest for the things this world offers has brought upon your family. Over the course of our years in ministry we've met hardly anyone in the Baby Boomer or Silent Generation who doesn't need to ask forgiveness from their family. If you're wondering about this, here are some proposals:

1. Intergenerational healing begins with parents asking forgiveness of their children wherever they failed to lead them in the Lordship of Jesus.
2. For the Boomers and the Silent Generation who are divorced, you need to ask your progeny forgiveness for not keeping the second most important covenant our Father gave mankind, marriage. It doesn't matter who caused the split; a covenant was broken and you participated in it. Ask forgiveness from both our Father and from your family!
3. For you older people who moved away from your family to enjoy a comfortable retirement, don't show up in heaven without asking your progeny's forgiveness for not being there intimately involved with them and their children. Removing yourself from them to bask in a warmer climate isn't going to sell at the Judgment.

We'd like you to consider some insights from our years of conducting retreats. Two often-repeated sorrows were mentioned by people with deceased parents:

1. Unresolved bitterness toward a deceased parent.
2. Unspoken precious words that should have been shared long before the parent's demise.

1. Unresolved bitterness toward a deceased parent.

There is no way we can emphasize this point enough. Insofar as is possible, we older people need to leave behind no bitter feelings against us in our families when we depart this life. The prison of unresolved bitterness that's holding surviving family members captive is as rampant within Christianity as it is outside it.

We Boomers and the Silent Generation have role-modeled a cascade of worldly goals and pursuits for our progeny. Why should we imprison them in bitterness too? There are sure steps you can take from a clean heart in our Lord. If your love for Jesus flows from your passionate appreciation for what He has forgiven you, then you can and should be Jesus-in-the-flesh to your surviving family in regard to forgiveness. Here's one approach we found highly effective:

At our retreat center we conducted a number of intergenerational demolishing strongholds retreats specifically for the grandparents, parents, and children of a family. The first thing we did before we focused on demonic strongholds was to ensure that the oldest generation *wasn't going to get blamed* for the demonic mess that had caused such harm to the next generations.

We emphasized that nobody in the family would be free of the emotional hurt unless they were all free. The grandparents in particular were grateful when they realized this wasn't going to be a 'blame them for everything' retreat. With this foundation laid, there was tremendous cooperation among all to face even the most painful issues that had never been addressed before. We wish you could've seen the tears of joy when they were all free!

2. Unspoken precious words that should have been shared long before the parent's demise.

No matter what generation you are, within your family you need to make sure you're letting each other know how much you all mean to each other. And no greater blessing in Christ can we Boomers and the Silent Generation leave our families than that we *and* they live free of unresolved hurt and will be in heaven together.

If your parents are deceased, write a letter telling them what they really mean to you. If you're carrying bitterness against them, then ask your heavenly Father to forgive you for your unChristlike response and renounce that spirit of bitterness in the name of Jesus. Then go read your letter to them at an appropriate place, maybe at their graveside. Forgiving them from your heart and letting go of past wounding will open the door for our Lord's Spirit to remove the sting of those painful memories.

Remember, if you're following our Lord Jesus, His presence in you is seen most profoundly through your love, your forgiveness and your compassion.

Mike & Sue