



Helping Men Win. It's What We Do.
Local Church Events // Men's Ministry Coaching
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The Battle for Men's Souls
2017 Johnny Hunt Men's Conference
Friday Evening Breakout

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Nehemiah 6:1-11

Talk to you tonight as a man...

Take every other title you may have and set it to the side.

Let's go man-to-man... are you up for it?

There are thousands of men rallying together on this campus and on their campus from hundreds of cities all across America for #BATTLEREAY. We also have men joining us from other countries.

Pastor Johnny, Men are the untapped reservoir of useful energy for God's Kingdom.

I believe that the largest unengaged people group living in America today are men even though they attend our churches and conferences; like #BATTLEREAY.

Unfortunately... for many men, this will be the only weekend they are engaged. Yes, after this weekend... the sad reality is that many churches will put their weapons down and walk away from the BATTLE FOR MEN'S SOULS.

No family church or nation will survive the death of real men.

And until men draw a line in the sand and rally together for the battle of men's souls many men, families and churches will continue to shaped by passivity.

I'd like to start with three foundational realities every man needs to learn to live with in the battle...

1. THE HEART OF MAN (2:11-17)

[verse 12] what God had put in my heart to do at Jerusalem.

1. **Nehemiah's Burden (1:3-6)**

When was the last time you climbed underneath the burden of God in prayer?

Have you ever prayed anything through?

What are you battling right now? What's weighing on you?

Matthew 11:28-29

1. If you call yourself a Christian leader and the key component of your leadership is not **prayer**; you're not a leader.
2. A call to lead is a call to **pray**.

Robert Murray McCheyne, "A man is who he is alone on his knees before God and he's nothing else."

2. **Nehemiah's Brokenness (1:6c-7)**

1. God can use your brokenness, only if you give Him **all** the pieces.
2. Brokenness is an ally and friend.

Matthew 5:3, blessed are the poor in spirit...

Poor in spirit – poverty of spirit, of little value...
I've got nothing to offer.

3. There is always a **gap** between who you are and what God wants done.

Matthew 5:4, blessed are those who mourn, the shall be comforted

Psalms 51:17, The sacrifices of God are a **broken** [crushed... to suffer] **spirit**,
A broken and a **contrite**
[severely broken, crushed] **heart—**
These, O God, You will not despise.

4. Brokenness is not something we **sign** up for.
5. Brokenness puts you **alone** with God.

Bitterness is always, always, always more costly than brokenness.

3. **Nehemiah's Belief (1:8-11; 2:20)**

1. God's providence is getting us to the right place, at the right time, with right **heart**.

Jess Hendley, "There will come a time where a man will have God, Christ, the Bible, and nothing else."

2. There is only one thing worse than waiting upon God, it wishing that you would have **waited**.

AW Tozer, "What comes into our minds when we think about God is the most important thing about us."

2. **THE HAND OF GOD (2:8, 18)**

Nehemiah 1:10-11, Now these *are* Your servants and Your people, whom You have redeemed **by Your great power, and by Your strong hand**.

1. Broken people will always find **favor** with God.

2. God is **not** limited by our weakness. The fact is that, as men, we are **always** in over our heads and God is attracted to weakness.

3. **We do not ask for the power of God so that we can use it. We ask for the power of God so that it can use us.**

4. **God made Nehemiah who he was and gave him what he needed.**

Charles Spurgeon, When God's warrior marches forth to battle strong in his own might, defeat is not far distant.

Jeremiah 17:5, Cursed is the man who trusts in man and makes flesh his strength, whose heart turns away from the Lord.

3. **THE HINDRANCE OF SATAN (2:10, 19-20)**

Mark it down, when God works in your heart and puts his hand upon you... you can expect opposition to come from the enemy.

1 Thes. 2:18, Wherefore we would have come unto you, even I Paul, once and again; but Satan hindered [to cut into, impede, detain] us.

1 Corinthians 16:9, for a wide door for effective work has opened to me, and there are many adversaries [opponent, withstand]

WHAT WILL KEEP US FROM THE BATTLE FOR MEN'S SOULS?

1. **Satan Battles with Deception**

Sanballat – the enemy is secret

2. **Satan Battles with Division**

Tobiah – the goodness of Jehovah

v10 - They were greatly disturbed... (KJV - it grieved them exceedingly) that a man would come to seek the well being of the children of Israel.

3. Deception, Division, **and now Satan Battles with Distraction**

Geshem – a shower; rain

The more intense the warfare, the greater the affirmation and confirmation that you are right in the center of God's will.

So, for this great work to continue...

You will need to battle through...

the deception, the division, the distraction

There are two weapons that we have laid down...

Manhood and Brotherhood.

1. **MANHOOD AS AN IDENTITY**

WE NEED TO REMEMBER OUR MANHOOD

God raises up a man because He wants something done.

When was the last time you thanked God for your gender... that He made you a man?

(6:3) Why should the work cease while I leave it and come down to up?

(6:11) Should a man such as I flee?

What powerful questions!

1. **Leonard Ravenhill** said, "A man who is intimate with God is not intimidated by men."
2. God raises up a man when He wants something **done!** Nehemiah had come too far as a man to come down from that great work.

Ezekiel 22:30, And I sought for a man among them, that should make up the hedge, and stand in the gap before me for the land, that I should not destroy it: but I found none.

Consistent Pursuit – sought for a man among them

Compelling Purpose – make up the hedge, stand in the gap before God, for the land, not destroy it

Convicting Problem – but I found none

3. If you don't **own** your manhood, someone or something will.
4. Men are made for **gaps**. God's assignments are always marked by gaps. Nehemiah 4
5. A man has the courage to do what is **necessary**.
6. A man **keeps** trying until he gets it right.
7. A man **lives** by a set of standards and principles.
8. A man submits to an authority **beyond** himself.

Psalm 144:3-5,

Lord, what is man, that You take knowledge of him?

Or the son of man, that You are mindful of him?

⁴ Man is like a breath; His days are like a passing shadow.

⁵ Bow down Your heavens, O Lord, and come down;

2. BROTHERHOOD AS AN OPPORTUNITY WE NEED TO RALLY IN BROTHERHOOD

Manhood is imprinted.. and God **raises up a man because He wants something done...**
Then, **He rallies men to get it done.**

1. The Unity of Brotherhood in the Battle (4:4-9)

1. No **soldier** can be expected to fight and survive in the battle alone.

I personally believe that there are four key players every man needs on his team in the battle

The Master

You Mate

The Ministry of your local church

Other Men (Jesus in the Garden of Gethsemane... Matthew 26:36-46)

2. When men move **together** with a common purpose, momentum happens.

2. The Urgency of Brotherhood in the Battle (4:10-20)

Urgent –

1. Requiring or calling for immediate action; pressing.
2. Entreating or advocating persistently.
3. Need for action; as of necessity.

Why the urgency?

V9 - Nevertheless we set a watch... we set a watch

What has happened on our watch?

I'm glad you asked... just listen to what's happened in the last 24 hours

Every man needs to hear this... ***stats from Rick Coram's Message at PowerLife Retreat, St. Simons Island, GA on July 10, 2016

In the Past 24 Hours...

3,000 unborn babies have been killed

Sir, get into position... in the past 24 hours

16,000 Americans have been raped, or robbed, or mugged

Sir, in the last 24 hours,

2,400 couples have filed for divorce

2,500 teenagers have dropped out of school

1,700 have gotten pregnant,

and **70 Million Americans** have visited online pornographic websites.

But Sir, on our watch... it's worse than that.

It's not just what's happened in the last 24 hours.

1/3 of all Americans...

110 Million Americans are walking around today with a sexually transmittable disease.

Sir, **40 % of all babies born in our country are born out of wedlock.**

Sir, we have **the highest porn rate in the world.**

--89 % of all the porn produced in the world is produced in America.

--Boys and men between the ages of 18 and 24...

77% in this age rage... boys and men...

view online pornography regularly.

--High school boys look at hard core porn an average of 2 hours per person, per week.

Your Pastor is leading a church in a nation,

that has the highest **crime rate,**

the highest **suicide rate,**

the highest **teenage pregnancy rate,**

the highest **drunkenness rate**

and the highest **prison rate of any other nation in the world.**

Men, this is the only generation in history where

abortion has been legalized,

homosexuality has been glorified,

adultery has been dignified

and immorality has been magnified.

It's time for every man, everywhere to get into position... let's see that no man is left behind!

The opposite of urgency is complacency.

Complacent – a feeling of quiet pleasure or security, often unaware of some potential danger, defect, or the like: self-satisfaction or smug satisfaction with an existing situation, condition, etc.

Comfortable. At ease. Unconcerned. Unworried.

Colossians 1:24-29, I now rejoice in my sufferings for you, and fill up in my flesh what is lacking in the afflictions of Christ, for the sake of His body, which is the church, ²⁵ of which I became a minister according to the stewardship from God which was given to me for you, to fulfill the word of God, ²⁶ the mystery which has been hidden from ages and from generations, but now has been revealed to His saints. ²⁷ To them God willed to make known what are the riches of the glory of this mystery among the Gentiles: which ^[a] is Christ in you, the hope of glory. ²⁸ Him we preach, warning every man and teaching every man in all wisdom, that we may present every man perfect in Christ Jesus. ²⁹ To this end I also labor, striving according to His working which works in me mightily.

1 Corinthians 16:13-14, Be watchful, stand firm in the faith, act like men, be strong. ¹⁴ Let all that you do be done with love.

Am I battle ready? Are we battle ready?

Coach Dabo Sweeney, A Man of God...

"You can't make this stuff up. Only God could do this. To beat the best team in the country and to see my guys fight. I told them that the difference in the game is going to be love.

At halftime, I told them... 'We're going to win this game. We're going to win this game because we love each other.'"

CONCLUSION

Nehemiah 4:13-15, 19-21, Therefore I positioned men behind the lower parts of the wall, at the openings; and I set the people according to their families, with their swords, their spears, and their bows. ¹⁴ And I looked, and arose and said to the nobles, to the leaders, and to the rest of the people, "Do not be afraid of them. Remember the Lord, great and awesome, and fight for your brethren, your sons, your daughters, your wives, and your houses."

¹⁵ And it happened, when our enemies heard that it was known to us, and that God had brought their plot to nothing, that all of us returned to the wall, everyone to his work.

19-21, Then I said to the nobles, the rulers, and the rest of the people, "The work is great and extensive, and we are separated far from one another on the wall. ²⁰ Wherever you hear the sound of the trumpet, rally to us there. **Our God will fight for us.**" ²¹ So we labored in the work

The 2 weapons for a great work are MANHOOD and BROTHERHOOD

Men, you want to know how to get BATTLE READY?

Pick up your manhood and use it.

Pick up brotherhood and use it.

Crawford Loritts, "When you are born you look like your parents. When you die, you look like your decisions."

We are two sessions in already and we don't have time to waste...

As we begin this conference... Are You Battle Ready? Two questions...

1. As a man, where did God find you?
2. As a man, what are you going to do about it?