

THE REBELUTION: Teenage Rebellion Against Low Expectations

INTRODUCTION:

What are the expectations that most people have of teens in our culture today?

- Rebellious. Parents are told to just plan on it. It is a phase that teens go through.
- Rude. I had a lady come up to me this year and was amazed at how well behaved our group was at Pirate's Cove. She asked me how I was able to assemble such a well-behaved group of teens.
- Raging hormones that are out of control. Our culture tells us that teens can't be expected to practice abstinence. We must give them contraceptives. They can't control themselves.
- Irresponsible. Lazy, can't accomplish much.
- They are going to party and experiment with drugs.

Basically our culture defines adolescence as a time when you are no longer children and innocent, but you aren't adults yet, and therefore, we can't expect much from you. Most parents' attitudes about the teen years include fear and they just want to get their teen through it, without too many scars.

The thing that saddens me about this picture of low expectations for teens is that many of you have bought into this lie and, as a result, don't believe you can do much to make a difference. You have to wait until you're older and until then, I'm just going to take it easy and have fun.

I want to suggest to you that the Scriptures do not agree with this idea. You can and must accomplish much for God's Kingdom during your teen years.

I. Biblical Examples of Teens God Used

- A. Mary: was the mother of Jesus when she was a teen
- B. David: killed Goliath when he was a teen
- C. Josiah was just a boy when he became king of Israel and, as a teen, destroyed the idol worship in Israel
- D. Daniel and his three friends took a stand against the king and brought glory to God in all of Babylon as a result
- E. Esther became queen and, as a teen, took a stand that rescued the nation of Israel.

II. Modern Day Example

Conner Crest was a normal 15 year old who lived in Georgia. One day he came home from school, grabbed a snack, and a magazine that had come in the mail. The magazine was "World Vision", and it was a special edition about the poverty in the world. He looked at

the picture of the starving children and read how 1.1 billion people don't have clean water and suffer extreme dehydration.

This really bothered him. It put things into perspective for him. Not getting to hand out with his friends on Friday no longer seemed like such a big deal. Every time he got a drink of water, he would think about those kids. He didn't know what to do, so he continued to pray. He prayed all summer and finally got an idea. He would sell bracelets and use the money to dig wells in Africa.

He thought the idea sounded silly, but couldn't stop thinking about it. So he got together a plan, and got four of his friends to help. When the article I read was written, they had raised \$20,000 and had funded the construction of four wells in Africa, and an irrigation system. They worked with The Blood: Water Mission started by Jars of Clay and have provided clean water for over 20,000 people and saved hundreds of lives.

III. The Reality of the Spiritual Battle

A. Why do we call our youth ministry "Frontline Student Ministries"?

1. It indicates a war is going on.

Eph. 6:12 "For our struggle is not against flesh and blood, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms."

2. What happens at the frontline?

That's where the battle is fought. It is where the action is. It is where you put to test all your training.

B. How many of you are in the battle?

1. All of us are in the battle.

2. It takes place in our daily lives.

3. It takes place when we are tempted to sin.

4. It takes place when we have conversations with our friends and we are considering whether we are going to bring up God or not.

5. The question isn't are you in the battle. The question is how do you see your role in the battle? Do you believe that with God you can make a difference? Will you actively engage in the battle?

C. Why do we call our youth room the "Outpost"?

1. An outpost is a place that is away from the frontline where soldiers can go to be refreshed and resupplied.

2. My desire is that FSM would be a place where you can attend and be encouraged and equipped to help you in the battle.

IV. God wants to use you to do great things

A. Do you believe that? Do you believe that with God's help you can have victory in the battle?

1. Eph. 6:10-11 Finally, be strong in the Lord and in his mighty power. Put on the full armor of God so that you can take your stand against the devil's schemes.

2. By yourself you can't have victory. But in Christ, with the help of other believers

you can be victorious.

B. The Salt and Light Mission (Matt. 5:13-16)

(Our role in the mission)

1. "You are the salt of the earth" (v13)

a. How do these verses describe who you are?

-It says you are salt, you are light.

-The question is not is this who you are. (This is what Jesus says is true of you as a follower of Jesus Christ) The question is what kind of salt and light are you?

b. What does it mean to be salt? What did they use salt for in Jesus' day?

(As a preservative) They didn't refrigerate like we do today and this was a way to keep food from spoiling.

c. What do we use salt for today?

(As a spice) It brings out the flavor of the food we are applying it to.

Salt also creates thirst. It makes us thirsty.

d. What are the implications for us?

- As a preservative, God wants us to fight against sin, corruption, and injustice.

What might that look like in your world?

-For example, maybe you volunteer to be a student representative on the curriculum board that reviews the sex ed materials and you take a stand for abstinence

-If you become aware of a student who is being mistreated or ignored, you give them a voice with the authorities

- As a thirst creator, we are to live our lives in such a way as to make God attractive (bring Him glory) so that people will want to learn more about God.

Those may be things we fight against which leads to the next point:

2) "You are the light of the world" (v14)

(a) Light reveals things. Light in the Scriptures points people toward the truth.

(b) I John says "God is light". You remember when God revealed Himself to Moses He appeared as burning bush and God's holiness was revealed.

The scriptures say that as believers God's glory now indwells us via the Holy Spirit, so we need to allow God's glory to be on display in our lives.

(c) To be a light is to display truth in action. It is to proclaim the truths of God's Word, especially the gospel, to a dark world.

(d) What truths does our world need to hear? (There is a God who loves them. There is right and wrong. The gospel).

3) What keeps you from being salt and light?

(a) If you don't think you can. But remember we already said that Jesus says this is who you are, not just what you do, if you are a Christian.

(b) **Salt** loses its effectiveness if it is contaminated by the world.

When we allow sin into our lives and start living just like the world we lose our influence on the world.

(c) A **light** is not effective if it is hidden or covered up.

4) Are you willing to let your light shine? Are you willing to live a pure life so God can be glorified through you?

B. Be an example of what it means to follow Christ

1) You know, having adults look down on teens and not expecting much is not a new thing. Paul wrote to young pastor Timothy about this in 1 Timothy 4:12.

2) Paul instructed young Timothy to not allow people to look down on him because of his youth, by being an amazing example of what it means to follow Christ. He challenges him to be an example in:

(a) Speech: can people tell you follow Christ by how you talk? I don't mean that you are always using religious words. But do you speak the truth in love? Do you build others up? Do you ever talk about Jesus and what He means to you?

(b) In how you live (your conduct): Is your life controlled by the principles of God's Word? Does what you say you believe show in how you live? Do you do your best in all you do?

(c) Love: this speaks of your motivation. Do people see you as someone who thinks of others first or do you have to have your way? Do you care about others and express it?

(d) Faith: This implies that we are trusting in God and living for His kingdom. We are seeking to be pleasing to Him and live dependent upon Him.

(e) Purity: This is living a life where we are not giving in to sin and temptation, but are seeking God and His ways instead of the world's ways.

IV. CONCLUSION

A. Two teens (Max and Brett Harris) wrote a book called, "Do Hard Things". In that book, they coined a new word, "Rebelution". It is the words "rebellion" and "revolution". This is not a rebellion against God or those He has established in authority. But they define it as an uprising against the low expectations of an ungodly culture. They challenge their generation (you) to rise up, live distinctly Christian lives, take a stand, and make a difference for God's Kingdom.

B. Story of the Welsh Revival and Awakening.

In January of 1904, Florrie Evans from New Quay, Wales, gave her heart to Jesus Christ. She was just 15 years old. One week later, she was at a service and the preacher asked for testimonies. She sat there in silence and couldn't believe no one said anything. As a new believer in Christ, she could wait no longer and stood up and began to testify of her love for Jesus. In an instant, the Holy Spirit came upon the group of believers. They began to weep in brokenness, and confession followed. No one was exempt.

In August of 1904, a traveling evangelist came to that church and preached and saw God move mightily. A month after he left, a man who had been convicted during that service repented and shared with his home town church. Shortly after, this man was used by God to be a part of the Welsh Revival, that saw 100,000 people accept Christ. And, it all began with a teen named Florrie Evans, who was willing to take a stand and testify of her Lord.

V. APPLICATION

- A. How many of you would say, "I believe God wants to use me to make a difference for His kingdom?"
- B. How many of you would say, "I want to be part of God's salt and light mission and be an example of what it really means to follow Christ?"
- C. If that is true, what is the thing you know you need to do in obedience of this lesson? (Repent of sin, begin being an example)