



There are three institutions that all have biblical roots and were initiated by God, Himself. Those same three things are under full-blown assault in contemporary American culture. They are being redefined, relabeled, repurposed. We are told that if we believe in them in the historical, traditional, biblical sense that we are narrowminded, out of date, even bigoted. We need an awareness of what is happening as it relates to *family, fathers, & faith*. Moreover, we need to recognize and stand with God's definition of each of institutions.

## I. FAITH ON DISPLAY

### 2 Chronicles 23:1–19

***In the seventh year Jehoiada showed his strength. He made a covenant with the commanders of units of a hundred: Azariah son of Jeroham, Ishmael son of Jehohanan, Azariah son of Obed, Maaseiah son of Adaiah, and Elishaphat son of Zikri. <sup>2</sup> They went throughout Judah and gathered the Levites and the heads of Israelite families from all the towns. When they came to Jerusalem, <sup>3</sup> the whole assembly made a covenant with the king at the temple of God.***

*Jehoiada said to them, "The king's son shall reign, as the Lord promised concerning the descendants of David. <sup>4</sup> Now this is what you are to do: A third of you priests and Levites who are going on duty on the Sabbath are to keep watch at the doors, <sup>5</sup> a third of you at the royal palace and a third at the Foundation Gate, and all the others are to be in the courtyards of the temple of the Lord. <sup>6</sup> No one is to enter the temple of the Lord except the priests and Levites on duty; they may enter because they are consecrated, but all the others are to observe the Lord's command not to enter. <sup>7</sup> The Levites are to station themselves around the king, each with weapon in hand. Anyone who enters the temple is to be put to death. Stay close to the king wherever he goes."*

*<sup>8</sup> The Levites and all the men of Judah did just as Jehoiada the priest ordered. Each one took his men—those who were going on duty on the Sabbath and those who were going off duty—for Jehoiada the priest had not released any of the divisions. <sup>9</sup> Then he gave the commanders of units of a hundred the spears and the large and small shields that had belonged to King David and that were in the temple of God. <sup>10</sup> He stationed all the men, each with his weapon in his hand, around the king—near the altar and the temple, from the south side to the north side of the temple. <sup>11</sup> Jehoiada and his sons brought out the king's son and put the crown on him; they presented him with a copy of the covenant and proclaimed him king. They anointed him and shouted, "Long live the king!" <sup>12</sup> When Athaliah heard the noise of the people running and cheering the king, she went to them at the temple of the Lord. <sup>13</sup> She looked, and there was the king, standing by his pillar at the entrance. The officers and the trumpeters were beside the king, and all the people of the land were rejoicing and blowing trumpets, and musicians with their instruments were leading the praises. Then Athaliah tore her robes and shouted, "Treason! Treason!" <sup>14</sup> Jehoiada the priest sent out the commanders of units of a hundred, who were in charge of the troops, and said to them: "Bring her out between the ranks and put to the sword anyone who follows her." For the priest had said, "Do not put her to death at the temple of the Lord." <sup>15</sup> So they seized her as she reached the entrance of the Horse Gate on the palace grounds, and there they put her to death.*

*<sup>16</sup> Jehoiada then made a covenant that he, the people and the king would be the Lord's people. <sup>17</sup> All the people went to the temple of Baal and tore it down. They smashed the altars and idols and killed Mattan the priest of Baal in front of the altars. <sup>18</sup> Then Jehoiada placed the oversight of the temple of the Lord in the hands of the Levitical priests, to whom David had made assignments in the temple, to present the burnt offerings of the Lord as written in the Law of Moses, with rejoicing and singing, as David had ordered. <sup>19</sup> He also stationed gatekeepers at the gates of the Lord's temple so that no one who was in any way unclean might enter.*

**\*When have you avoided talking about your faith in mixed company? Who in your sphere of influence needs to know where you stand with the Lord?**

**\*Where have you seen a biblical worldview and or biblical values/principles discredited in the public square? How has that impacted you?**

**\*What advice would you give a father or the head of a family today regarding seeking the Lord and being spiritually strong in our current culture?**

## II. INSTRUCTIONS RE: SEEKING THE LORD

### A. Diligence Required

Hebrews 11:6 *And without faith it is impossible to please God, because anyone who comes to him must believe that he exists and that he rewards those who earnestly seek him.*

## B. Gaining Spiritual Strength—practical ideas for you home & life

### 1. Communion

1 Corinthians 11:23–26 *For I received from the Lord what I also passed on to you: The Lord Jesus, on the night he was betrayed, took bread,<sup>24</sup> and when he had given thanks, he broke it and said, “This is my body, which is for you; do this in remembrance of me.”<sup>25</sup> In the same way, after supper he took the cup, saying, “This cup is the new covenant in my blood; do this, whenever you drink it, in remembrance of me.”<sup>26</sup> For whenever you eat this bread and drink this cup, you proclaim the Lord’s death until he comes.*

**\*What does communion mean to you? Why do you think Jesus chose to focus on two things (the body and the blood)?**

### 2. Anointing

**\*Share a time in your life when you relied more on the wisdom of the world instead of the spiritual insight available from the anointing of the Holy Spirit?**

### 3. Serving

Matthew 23:11–12 *The greatest among you will be your servant.<sup>12</sup> For whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted.*

Matthew 20:26–28 *Not so with you. Instead, whoever wants to become great among you must be your servant,<sup>27</sup> and whoever wants to be first must be your slave—<sup>28</sup> just as the Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give his life as a ransom for many.”*

**\*How is servant leadership different from other leadership styles?**

**\*In what ways are you using the gifts God gave you to serve others?**

### 4. Giving

Deuteronomy 12:6 *there bring your burnt offerings and sacrifices, your tithes and special gifts, what you have vowed to give and your freewill offerings, and the firstborn of your herds and flocks.*

Malachi 3:6–9 *“I the Lord do not change. So you, O descendants of Jacob, are not destroyed.<sup>7</sup> Ever since the time of your forefathers you have turned away from my decrees and have not kept them. Return to me, and I will return to you,” says the Lord Almighty. “But you ask, ‘How are we to return?’<sup>8</sup> “Will a man rob God? Yet you rob me. “But you ask, ‘How do we rob you?’ “In tithes and offerings.<sup>9</sup> You are under a curse—the whole nation of you—because you are robbing me.*

Luke 21:1–4 *As he looked up, Jesus saw the rich putting their gifts into the temple treasury.<sup>2</sup> He also saw a poor widow put in two very small copper coins.<sup>3</sup> “I tell you the truth,” he said, “this poor widow has put in more than all the others.<sup>4</sup> All these people gave their gifts out of their wealth; but she out of her poverty put in all she had to live on.”*

### 5. Learning (Bible Reading)

Deuteronomy 11:18–9 <sup>18</sup> *Fix these words of mine in your hearts and minds; tie them as symbols on your hands and bind them on your foreheads.<sup>19</sup> Teach them to your children, talking about them when you sit at home and when you walk along the road, when you lie down and when you get up.*

Proverbs 3:1–6 *My son, do not forget my teaching, but keep my commands in your heart,<sup>2</sup> for they will prolong your life many years and bring you prosperity.<sup>3</sup> Let love and faithfulness never leave you; bind them around your neck, write them on the tablet of your heart.<sup>4</sup> Then you will win favor and a good name in the sight of God and man.<sup>5</sup> Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding;<sup>6</sup> in all your ways acknowledge him, and he will make your paths straight.*

**\*What are your spiritual next steps?**

## PRAYER

Lord Jesus, thank You for Your sacrifice on our behalf—for what You suffered and endured that we might be free from sin and death. We humbly come before You with repented hearts to acknowledge our shortcomings, failures, and inadequacies—forgive us, Lord. There are those we need to forgive today. We release them, cancel the obligations we have held them to, and set them free. We pray for healing and deliverance into freedom and peace of mind. Thank You that through the blood of Jesus, we have been delivered out of the hands of the enemy—that all of Satan's claims against us have been canceled. Through the blood of Jesus, we have been justified and sanctified, set apart for the purposes of God. May Jesus' name be exalted in this generation and Your Kingdom extended. In Jesus' name, amen.