

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

Transcript

James T. Jeremiah:

Satan, with every force at his disposal, is constantly making a subtle and all too often effective attack on the home. Pastors, Christian teachers, counselors, social workers, and psychologists are spending more time than ever before endeavoring to keep homes from falling apart. A greater emphasis must be placed on the importance of the Christian home. Teenagers are turning off the home, the church, and the government, the three divinely created institutions. Many young people have become disillusioned about the home because of parental inconsistencies.

James T. Jeremiah:

Too often, dad and mom have been saying, "Don't do what I do, but what I say." This attitude reveals a lack of genuine concern for the children. When 600 teenagers in New England prisons were asked to explain the conditions that led them to their imprisonment, the report, based upon the response, indicated that six out of 10 teenagers had fathers who drank to excess. Many had mothers in the same condition. Three out of four were permitted by parents to come and go as they please with no parental oversight.

James T. Jeremiah:

Three out of five came from homes where there was discord between parents. Seven out of 10 at homes where no group or family activities were conducted, and four out of five had parents who took little interest in their sons' or daughters' friends. This report from the imprisoned teenagers coincides with a scriptural prediction of the deplorable conditions that will prevail in the home life during the last days of this age. "This, know also, that in the last days perilous times will come. For men shall be lovers of their own selves, disobedient to parents, without natural affection, despisers of those that are good, lovers of pleasures more than lovers of God." 2 Timothy 3:1-4.

James T. Jeremiah:

This prophecy should warn Christians what to expect and call them to a closer walk with God. It must never be cited as a reason why these terrible conditions should be tolerated and continue to exist in a Christian home. What can Christian parents do to encourage their children to consistently live for Christ as teenagers at home, and then when they leave home? The answer to that question is simply stated, but it will take years of careful, compassionate, consistent living to make the plan effective. The only way to make God's plan for the Christian home effective in the lives of the children is to build better battlements.

James T. Jeremiah:

Every Christian home should have a strong spiritual fence lovingly built securely around it. Houses in biblical times were built with flat roofs. This roof, the family room became one of the most important parts of an Eastern home, because it was the place where family and friends gathered, the law required that certain protective precautions should be built into it. "When thou buildest a new house, then thou shall make a battlement for thy roof that thou bring not blood upon thine house if any man fall from thence." Deuteronomy 22:8.

James T. Jeremiah:

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

When the owner of the house placed a battlement or a parapet around the roof area, he was free from liability if someone fell and was injured. If he failed to make this provision, then he was responsible if a guest was injured. There are certain important precautions that parents must take if they have any expectation to see their children grow up and leave home without spiritual tragedy. When our children go wrong, it is easy to blame society, the schools, and even our churches, but sometimes, the trouble comes from the home, parents must build better battlements and do more than lay down the law.

James T. Jeremiah:

Certain spiritual battlements or fences can be erected around our homes to keep the family from falling into the sinful practices that cause ruined and wasted lives. These protective walls will not just happen. They must be built. Father, mother, how do you rate as a builder of battlements?

James T. Jeremiah:

A study made by the Ohio State University Extension Service reveals that today's society accepts many family lifestyles. No longer is a family style limited to the man, wife, children formula, reports Kent Hamdorf, extension family life specialist at the university.

James T. Jeremiah:

Many types of family life are part of today's society. Trial marriages without the formality of a marriage contract exist in great numbers on many college campuses and in metropolitan areas. Many young people who do get married today prefer to remain childless in order to more easily pursue pleasure and/or a career. Many do not share their parents' view that marriage and family life are ordained by God as clearly stated in Genesis 2:23 and 24, "And Adam said, "This is now bone of my bones and flesh of my flesh. She shall be called woman because she was taken out of man. Therefore, shall a man leave his father and his mother and shall cleave unto his wife and they shall be one flesh."

James T. Jeremiah:

Matthew Henry, the famous Bible commentator said that woman was not taken out of man's feet to imply her inferiority, nor out of his head to suggest superiority, but out of his side implying companionship and equality. The word of God teaches that Christian marriage can be biblical only as the two partners marry in the Lord. From the Christian point of view, this is a primary requirement. "Be not unequally yoked together with unbelievers, for what fellowship hath righteousness with unrighteousness?" 2 Corinthians 6:14. Also, it must be marriage to the right Christian with both partners being united, not only to Christ in salvation, but to each other in the will of God That there are unhappy so-called Christian homes we cannot deny.

James T. Jeremiah:

Marriage out of the will of God may be the cause of this disharmony in some of the homes. Neighbors come to visit a couple in their newly completed home, "It's very nice", commented one visitor, "but I don't see why you call this type of house a bungalow." "Well," explained the owner, "we just don't know what else to call it. The job was a bungle and we still own for it." it's not only true with some houses, it is likewise true of many homes.

James T. Jeremiah:

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

A home without Christ can easily be bungled and become very costly. Our children will know whether or not ours is a happy marriage or a bungled one. Beginning married life in the Lord and in his will can be one of the most important battlements ever erected as a protection for our children and their future. The following 10 commandments for a happy marriage may be of some help in building a stronger fence or battlement in the home.

James T. Jeremiah:

Thou shall be your best for the one you love the best. Thou shall be grateful to your mate every day. Thou shall deliberately plan time for one another. Thou shall be patient when your partner has had a difficult day. Thou shall learn to say, I'm sorry. Thou shall stand together. Thou shall remember that love is a two-way street. Thou shall not throw a spark in the spilled gasoline causing an explosion by speaking a word, a wrong or an unkind word.

James T. Jeremiah:

Thou shall serve God together, never permitting even church activities to keep husband and wife apart several nights each week. Thou shalt meet God together at the end of each day. Praying before retiring will keep the marriage inspiring. Well, good 10 commandments, I think. With mutual dedication to Christ, a willingness to live for one another, and a determination to make the marriage last, any husband and wife team, can build substantial materials into the fence around their home.

James T. Jeremiah:

This kind of home will provide an atmosphere of mutual confidence and needed security before their children. How are you doing these days on building the battlements for your home?

James T. Jeremiah:

Today, many marriage vows are not taken seriously. Many couples consider till death do us part to be figurative. Some marriage ceremonies no longer contain the famous words. It is not a mandatory part of the marriage vows at a church in Haverfordwest, England.

James T. Jeremiah:

The minister, Reverend Angus Roderick said that the phrase, so long as I am able, may be substituted by those couples who desire it. The clergyman said he feels it is wrong for couples to be held by this solemn pledge if their love has long died. The teaching of the Bible disagrees with this pastor and others in America who have forsaken God's plan for marriage. Know you not brethren, for I speak to them that know the law? How that the law have dominion over a man as long as he liveth or the woman which hath a husband is bound by the law to her husband, so long as he liveth. But if the husband is dead, she is loose from the law of her husband, so then, if, while her husband liveth, she'd be married to another man, she shall be called an adulterous. But if her husband be dead, she is free from that law so that she is no adulterous, though, she'd be married to another man." Romans 7:1-3.

James T. Jeremiah:

Fortunately, even in this day of permissiveness, many will disagree with the philosophy of Reverend Roderick. For example, Will Smith, 92, and his wife, Lou, 87, observed their 71st wedding anniversary in Albuquerque, New Mexico. Mrs. Smith said the best recipe book for a long marriage is the Bible.

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

Everything we need is there, she explained. God desires to use his word as the guide book for happy marriages. When the authority of the word of God is ignored and the Lordship of Christ is rejected, even in a Christian home, there is likely to be distrust, bickering, and general dissatisfaction between husbands and wives.

James T. Jeremiah:

A family Bible on the living room table does not meet the spiritual need in anyone's home. It must be believed, read, and practiced. The following pledge based upon sound, biblical principles may be of help to some husbands and wives whose marriage is in danger of being wrecked. As husband and wife, we will keep adding fuel to the fire of love by words and acts of appreciation for each other. We will be quick to forgive and to ask forgiveness when misunderstanding comes. We will allow no one to come between us. We will take a sane attitude toward money and a mature attitude toward work, each carrying a proper share of the family duties.

James T. Jeremiah:

We will take time for wholesome recreation, keep a sense of humor and learn to laugh even at ourselves. If God entrusts children to us, we will welcome them, love them, and give them good care and training. Christ will have first place in our hearts and in our home. We will be loyal members of a local Bible believing church, attending its services together regularly and sharing in its ministry to others.

James T. Jeremiah:

By God's help, our home will be an asset and not a liability to our church, to the community, and to the world. Pretty good pledge, better read it, and why not sign it? In Paul's letter to the Ephesian Christians, he presents a solid foundation upon which these pledges can be based. "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as unto the Lord, for the husband is the head of the wife, even as Christ is the head of the church, and he is the savior of the body. Therefore, as the church is subject under Christ, so let the wives be to their own husbands in everything. Husbands love your wives, even as Christ also loved the church and gave himself for it." Ephesians 5:22-26.

James T. Jeremiah:

When the two parties in a marriage commit themselves to God and one another, as indicated in this pledge, they have placed another rail in the protective fence in the home, and the husband will love his wife and the wife will be in subjection or in submission to her husband. Whenever a married couple follows God's plan, the marriage will be for keeps. Are you building battlements today around your home? I hope so.

James T. Jeremiah:

A study conducted for the New York City police department revealed that its patrolmen in residential neighborhoods were spending 50% of their time settling family squabbles, often at great danger to themselves. A spokesman at the United States Justice Department's National Institute of Law Enforcement and Criminal Justice states, police report that intervention in husband-wife fights results in more assaults on policeman than any other kind of encounter. FBI statistics show that 22% of all policemen killed in the line of duty have died as a result of family fights.

James T. Jeremiah:

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

The violence in marriage is a major problem in America. Few realize just how many husbands and wives kill and maim each other every year. This report shows the importance of the Christian home. Any home can be what it ought to be only as Christ is given first place in the heart of husbands, wives and children. The Bible clearly states the responsibilities of each member of a family to one another. "Wives submit yourselves unto your own husbands as it is fit in the Lord. Husbands love your wives and be not bitter against them. Colossians 3:18 and 19.

James T. Jeremiah:

"Children obey parents in the Lord. Ephesians 6:1. Obedience to these priorities will mean that each member of the household performs his role according to the rules. Richard [Meechan ?], a family counselor claims that one of the greatest problems faced by the modern family is the confusion of roles. He said, in family after family, the root of the problem is this confusion of roles. Not only do I see husbands and wives reversing roles, she becoming more dominant than he, but I see children becoming the dominating voice in the family instead of the submissive one.

James T. Jeremiah:

The influence of a father, given this flux of roles is deteriorating family life to a degree, that in many cases, the wife, not the husband, wheels the effective decision making power to the confusion of all. It is not so much a confusion of masculinity and femininity, but a confusion over who makes which decision. When that is resolved, there is no conflict and the family is solid. Some husbands encourage their wives to cook like mother did and then complain about the special dinners she prepared. Some wives try to change a man's habits and then complain he is not the man he used to be.

James T. Jeremiah:

Some husbands and wives have attempted to change the roles ordained for them by the Lord. Unless these biblical roles of husband and wife are faithfully observed, there will be contention in the home and family arguments will follow. Then, instead of building a battlement or a fence to guard the children from falling into sin, a great gap is made in the wall. Events at home may make the teenager go out of the home in rebellion or discourage his submission to God. One writer put it like this, if a child lives with criticism, he learns to condemn. If he lives with hostility, he learns to fight. If he lives with ridicule, he learns to be shy.

James T. Jeremiah:

If he lives with shame, he learns to feel guilty. If he lives with tolerance, he learns to be patient. If he lives with encouragement, he learns confidence. If he lives with praise, he learns to appreciate. If he lives with fairness, he learns justice. If he lives with security, he learns to have faith. If he lives with approval, he learns to like himself. If he lives with acceptance and friendship, he learns to find love in the world. If he learns to know God and his love, he is a source of inspiration and joy to all. Seldom do we recognize the results of how we live and act in the presence of our children.

James T. Jeremiah:

The wrong we do may influence our children toward a life of crime; the right decisions, actions and examples can be used of God to direct them in paths of righteousness. It is always right to seek God's plan as clearly stated in his word, and then follow it. Be sure to perform the family roles according to the biblical rules and build better battlements for your home.

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

James T. Jeremiah:

About to leave home for a few days, a mother talked to her children about their behavior until she should return.

James T. Jeremiah:

She then poured out her heart with them in prayer. After a moment's pause, a little two-year-old boy bowed his head down by his mother's cheek and said, "More." When a parent's love and example can bring from children a call for more prayer, the home happiness is assured. There are numerous occasions in the daily experience of the Christian home when special prayer will be needed. Christian parents need to be aware of the importance of a life of prayer. Praying always with all prayer and supplication in the spirit and watching there unto with all perseverance and supplication for all saints." Ephesians 6:18, praying always for all means we shall be in fellowship with God.

James T. Jeremiah:

When prayer is needed for our family, we will be ready to come to God in a moment's time on their behalf. "For thou Lord are good and ready to forgive and plenteous mercy unto all them that call upon thee, and the day of my trouble will I call upon thee for thou will answer me." Psalm 86:5 and 7. No son is too far from God, no daughter is too deep in sin for God to turn his ear away from God-fearing praying parents. "This is the confidence that we have in him, that if we ask anything according to his will, he heareth us. And if we know that he hear us, whatsoever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we desired of him." 1 John 5:13-14.

James T. Jeremiah:

God will hear a believing parent's prayer of intercession for a son or daughter, just as he hears the child's petitions in behalf of a prodigal mother or a wayward father. A certain wealthy man would have given up all his riches if he could have called back his first born son. The boy was brought home one day unconscious. The doctor examined him, turned to the father and said, "There is no hope." "What?" Exclaimed the father. "Is it possible my boy has to die?" "There is no hope," replied the doctor. "Will he regain consciousness?" Asked the father. "He may, but he cannot live," said the doctor.

James T. Jeremiah:

"try all your skill, doctor. I don't want my boy to die," urged the father. After some hours had passed, the boy awakened and was told that his death was approaching. He said to his father, "Won't you pray for my lost soul, father? You have never prayed for me." The father only wept for he knew it was true. During the 17 years that God had given him his boy, he had never spent an hour in prayer for his soul. The object of his life had been to accumulate wealth for that son. If these words come to the attention of a prayerless father or a mother, settle the question of your own soul's salvation, and then pray for the child God has given you.

James T. Jeremiah:

It could be that the greatest family problem we face today is not the belligerent sons and daughters, but the backslidden fathers and mothers. Parents who are not in praying fellowship need to repent and turn to God if they ever hope to help their children in a spiritual way. Before parents can ever hope to lead their children to Christ, or ever pray for their salvation, they themselves must have a personal salvation

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

with Christ. This is an important condition to answered prayer. There are several sins, which God's people may commit, which will hinder their prayers. For example, a prayer relationship between husband and wife is essential to a proper fellowship with God.

James T. Jeremiah:

"Husbands giving honor unto the wife as unto the weaker vessel, and as being heirs together of the grace of life, that your prayers be not hindered." 1 Peter 1:7. As a parent, there will be many times when you earnestly desire to give to your children many things that are out of your reach, either financially or otherwise. However, you can endow your children with something that money can never buy. This you will do, when you dedicate yourself to God as a praying parent and build a protective wall around your home. Prayer is a vital part of a Christian home and will keep the children going in the right direction.

James T. Jeremiah:

One day, a mother, having trouble keeping her son in his own yard and off the nearby dangerous street, warned that the next time he left their property, he would receive a spanking. She went to the window to check on him and was just in time to see him with his hand on the latch of the gate, almost ready to dash outside. He hesitated, looked back toward the house, but not seeing his mother, raised the latch and went out. He returned and his mother asked where he had been. He was all set to deny leaving their property when his mother exclaimed, "I was at the window and saw you stop at the gate, look around, then raise the latch and go out into the dangers of that street."

James T. Jeremiah:

"Well, mom," said the trembling little fellow, "if you saw me hesitate at the gate, why didn't you peck on the window and help a fellow out?" The story does not indicate whether or not the boy was disciplined. To the credit of the mother, it would seem she had this in mind. Let's hope the response from the lad did not stand in the way of the promised spanking. This mother was trying to impress on her son the importance of obedience. The Bible says, "Train up a child in the way he should go, and when he is old, he will not depart from it." Proverbs 22:6.

James T. Jeremiah:

The secret is found in the word train, which is translated four times in the Old Testament by the word, dedicate or give instruction. Christian parents present their children to God and use every possible means of instruction to see that they conform to the dedication. Loving discipline is one of the means God will use, but many parents are afraid to discipline. They have lost the reigns of government and junior is in the driver's seat.

James T. Jeremiah:

The poor youngsters are the victims of adult delinquency. The defeated parents, having thrown in the towel, so to speak, buy books, consult psychiatrists, attend PTA lectures, worry their pastors, scurry hither and thither, hoping to find some mystic solution to their self-inflicted miseries. Christian parents are instructed to discipline their children with an attitude of love. There are warnings against doing it in any other way. "And ye fathers, provoke not, that is do not irritate beyond measure your children to wrath, but bring them up in the nurture or the discipline and admonition of the Lord." Ephesians 6:4.

James T. Jeremiah:

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

To neglect using a paddle with love is to do damage to a child for his lifetime. The book of Proverbs teaches the necessity of loving discipline. For example, "The rod and reproof give wisdom, but a child left to himself, bringeth his mother to shame. Correct thy son and he shall give thee rest, yea, he shall give delight unto thy soul. Proverbs 29:15 and 17. Every Christian home needs a paddle used with love and discernment, but discipline in a Christian home is more than spanking children when they do wrong.

James T. Jeremiah:

It is teaching them so that they will do right. The mother of John and Charles Wesley is a good example of how this can be done. Susanna Wesley, mother of 19 children, says that they were taught to cry softly so that odious noise of a crying child was rarely heard in our home. She believed it to be a God-given duty to discipline and educate her children. For the day each child became five years old, she took that child into a room with her and there they stayed until he or she learned the alphabet.

James T. Jeremiah:

This seldom took more than a day. The scriptures support the successful program of Mrs. Wesley. "Even a child is known by his doings, whether his work be pure and whether it be right." Proverbs 20:11. "Better is a poor and a wise child than an old and foolish king who will no more be admonished." Ecclesiastes 4:13. In this day, when many homes are just places to sleep at night, Mrs. Wesley's methods may be classified as outmoded, but they work. In the light of their frustrations, the modern child psychologist may do well to read her rules and encourage parents to read, believe, and practice the Bible she used as guide.

James T. Jeremiah:

If one is interested in building a home with a fence, an important section of that fence will be a paddle used with love.

James T. Jeremiah:

Some years ago, McCall's Magazine published a parent's report card investigating teenagers' evaluation of their parents. The quality most highly rated about fathers was he spends time with me. Having a father's attention and approval is a matter of crucial importance with a child. In such a way, "a good man leaveth an inheritance to his children's children." Proverbs 13:22. Dad, you are someone very special.

James T. Jeremiah:

Mother is like an old shoe, comfortably or uncomfortably, around all day, familiar, largely taken for granted, but dad is someone special. He goes away in the mornings to an exciting world and makes a dramatic re-entrance into the family group at night. When he talks or plays with the children, they really take notice. Herman L. Turner tells of a mechanic who, after a hard day's work, was seen by a friend playing baseball with his son.

James T. Jeremiah:

The friend said, "Bill, aren't you tired?" "Why, yes, I am. Of course, I'm tired." "Well, what under the sun are you doing that for?" "Oh", he said, "I'd rather have the backache now than the heartache later on." Sometimes we think the greatest thing fathers do for their children is to provide for them in a material

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

way. Does not the Bible say, that if any provide not for his own and especially for those of his own house, he has denied the faith and is worse than an infidel? 1 Timothy 5:8. Surely, we want to provide a home, food, and clothing for our children, but let us also consider the importance of other needs that cannot be purchased with money.

James T. Jeremiah:

How about time, friendship, and participation in their activities. "If a son shall ask bread of any of you as a father, will you give him a stone? Or if he asked a fish, will he, for a fish, give him a serpent? Luke 11:11. Perhaps this verse could be paraphrased to read, if a son shall ask companionship of any of you that is a father, will you give him an excuse by saying you are too busy? Yes, there is much more to being a good Christian father than simply providing bed and board for the children. It is important to share love, time, experiences and companionship with them.

James T. Jeremiah:

Christian parents participating with their children in activities that they all can enjoy may be the means of pointing them to Christ or passing on biblical truths that may have a lifetime of meaning. "The living, he shall praise thee, as I do this day, the father to the children shall make known the truth." Isaiah 38:19. Even grandmothers and grandfathers too, can participate in making life more secure and enjoyable for children who will soon become teenagers. An eight-year-old wrote "a grandmother is a lady who has no children of her own so she likes other people's boys and girls. Grandmas don't have anything to do, except be there. If they take us for walks, they slow down past pretty leaves and caterpillars.

James T. Jeremiah:

They never say hurry up. Usually, they are fat, but not too fat to tie our shoes. They wear glasses and sometimes they can take their teeth out. They can answer questions like, why dogs hate cats and why God isn't married. They don't talk visitors' talk like visitors do, because it's hard to understand. When they read to us, they don't skip words or mind if it's the same story again. Everybody should try to have a grandma, especially if you don't have television, because grandmas are the only grownups who always have time."

James T. Jeremiah:

Participation in the joys and problems of our children will make a huge building stone in the battlement of our home because it may lead them to see the reality of salvation, and then personally, trust him. This may be the key to keeping a son or daughter walking in the light and turning away from the waves of sin. The backache that comes by participation may save the heartache sure to come if we fail to do so.

James T. Jeremiah:

What do you have? Or what do you want? A backache or a heartache?

James T. Jeremiah:

A college English professor wrote on the blackboard the words, woman without her man is a savage, directing the students to punctuate it correctly. He found that the males looked at it one way and the females another. The males wrote, woman, without her man, is a savage. The females wrote, woman, without her, man is a savage. The fact is the man and woman equally need each other. God created

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

them, male and female as a compliment, one to the other. The Lord said, "It is not good that man be alone. I will make him an helpmeet for him." Genesis 2:18. Economists have attempted to settle the argument about whether the husband or the wife is worth more around the house.

James T. Jeremiah:

They estimate that the typical American housewife spends 99.6 hours and the husband 24 hours per week in work around the house. It is estimated a wife is worth \$159.34 per week, or \$8,285.68 per year. This is what it would cost the husband to hire special workers to perform the services his wife contributes to the home. The worth of a woman can not be measured by physical beauty or dollars and cents. An excellent wife, who can find, for her worth is far above jewels, the heart of her husband trusts in her, and he will have no lack of gain. She does him good and not evil all the days of her life. Her children rise up and bless her. Her husband also, and he praises her saying, "Many daughters have done nobly, but you excel them all." Proverbs 31:10-12 and verses 28 and 29.

James T. Jeremiah:

The following meaningful words, penned by a Reverend M. Lowry will be an encouragement to Christian mothers who may be tempted by the crowd to work for the women's liberation causes. Here they are. The rights of women, what are they? The right to labor, love and pray, the right to weep with those who weep, the right to wake when others sleep, the right to dry the falling tear, the right to quell the rising fear, the right to smooth the brow of care and whisper comfort in despair. The right to watch the parting breath, to soothe and cheer the bed of death.

James T. Jeremiah:

The right when earthly hopes all fail to point to that within the veil. The right to wander or to reclaim, and win the lost from paths of shame, the right to comfort and to bless the widows and the fatherless, the intellect to train and guide the soul to noble aim, teach it to rise above earth's toys, and wing its flight for heavenly joys. The right to live for those we love. The right to die, that love to prove. The right to brighten earthly homes with pleasant smiles and gentle tones. Are these thy rights? Then use them well. Thy silent influence none can tell.

James T. Jeremiah:

If these are thine, why ask for more? Thou has enough to answer for, are these thy rights? Then murmur not that woman's mission is thy lot. Charles Dickens said that it should be somewhere written that the virtues of the mothers shall be visited on their children, as well as the sins of the fathers. After R. A. Torrey had become widely known as an evangelist, he made the following statement, "I grew up in a Godly home, but I was ungodly," he said. "I reached young manhood ungodly, unsaved, careless about the things of the soul. Then I went away with my mother's words ringing in my ears, "Rueben, when the way back is dark, son, call upon God, call upon God."

James T. Jeremiah:

"I wandered far, farther than I had ever dreamed that I could wander. Then one night in a hotel room, I planned to commit suicide. As I made preparations, there came flashing in my mind the words of my darling mother, "Rueben, when the hour's dark, son, call upon God. Call upon God." Instead of taking my own life, I gave my life to the Lord, Jesus." Torrey, subsequently, became superintendent of what is now the Moody Bible Institute, and for several years served as pastor of the Moody Church. He authored 40

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

Bible study books, which have blessed thousands of Christians. All of this began because of a mother's influence and prayer life.

James T. Jeremiah:

As we build a battlement around our Christian home, let us make sure we place the godly wife and mother in her honored position.

James T. Jeremiah:

Generally, by the time our children are teenagers, they are what our homes have made them. They become what they have observed. It is said that children make certain projections. Stern and quick to punish father projects a tyrant God who's to be feared. A pushover father who refuses to punish projects a God who winks and smiles at wrongdoing, but a father who gives love and discipline projects a God who loves, but will not overlook human wrongdoing.

James T. Jeremiah:

A father who fails to properly mix love and discipline, not only loses the respect of his children, but he imparts wrong impressions to them about sin and the consequences of it. The Old Testament records give several examples of like father, like son relationship. For example, it is stated that Ahaziah, the son of Ahab, did evil in the sight of the Lord and walked in the way of his father and in the way of his mother and provoked the Lord, God of Israel according to all that his father had done, 1 Kings 22:51-53.

James T. Jeremiah:

A case history from the Chicago Sun-Times illustrates the point. When Johnny was six years old, he was with his father when he handed the officer a \$5 bill with his driver's license. "It's okay, son, we're caught speeding, his father said as they drove off, everybody does it." This was the excuse given to him at various periods in his life by adults who excused themselves as they disobeyed the law and encouraged him to cheat. Everybody does it. When he was 19, he was approached by an upperclassmen who offered the test answers for \$3. "It's okay, kid," he said, "everybody does it." Johnny was caught and sent home in disgrace.

James T. Jeremiah:

"How could you do this thing to your mother and me," his father said. "You've never learned anything like this at home." But remember, it all started when dad said, "It's okay, son, everybody does it." A false witness shall not be unpunished, and he that speaketh lies shall not escape. Proverbs 19:5. A young girl crowned beauty queen in her high school went out with her date to celebrate. Late that night, her father was called to the scene of an accident. In a ditch, lay the dead body of his lovely daughter.

James T. Jeremiah:

Pinned underneath the wreckage was the body of her date. Nearby, lay a broken bottle, and the father ringing his hand and said, "If I could get my hands on the man who sold them that bottle, I'd wring his neck. At home, needing a shot to bolster his nerves, he reached into his usual spot for his bottle of tonic to find it gone, and a note in its place, "Daddy, we wanted to celebrate so we borrowed your bottle. Sure you won't mind." He had purchased the death bottle for his own daughter.

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

James T. Jeremiah:

The Bible warns against the sin of being a bad example, and being not like unto your fathers and like your brethren, which trespass against the Lord God of their fathers, 2 Chronicles: 37. To emphasize the influence of example, consider the descendants of two men who lived in America, one a devout Christian minister, and the other an outspoken unbeliever. The minister, Jonathan Edwards, who married a devout Christian girl. From their union, have come 729 descendants, which include 300 ministers, 65 professors, 13 university presidents, 60 authors, three United States Congressman, and the United States vice president.

James T. Jeremiah:

The only known black sheep was Aaron Burr, the unbeliever, Max Jukes married an unbeliever, and they produced 1,026 known descendants, 300 of whom died early in life, 100 went to prison, twice that number were public prostitutes, 100 were drunkards. The family cost the state over \$1 million. They made little contribution to society. The influence of a father on a child is great for good or bad. Children are likely to imitate what they see in their fathers. Dad, you are one of the most important blocks in that battlement around your home.

James T. Jeremiah:

If you are not in the proper position in the spiritual wall, your children will fall to their harm and your sorrow. The priority in your life is being the best husband and father you can by the grace of God, and for the good of your children.

James T. Jeremiah:

John wanted a motorcycle, but his parents did not approve. One day he asserted, probably tomorrow I'm going to be 18. I am eligible to vote and I'm going to do what I want to do. The next day, even before his father had opportunity to wish him happy birthday, John went shopping for his motorcycle.

James T. Jeremiah:

He felt he was displaying manliness to do what he wanted to do, ignoring all authority over him, but sad to relate, on the test drive, the cycle went off a narrow winding road in the hills and John was killed. Naturally, the parents grieved and blamed the due law for killing their son because it gave him the false idea that now, because he was a man, he could do as he please. The false idea prevalent in these days implies that manliness and courage are demonstrated by defying authority, whereas the reverse is true.

James T. Jeremiah:

Perhaps John had never been taught Ephesians 6:1 and 2, "Children obey your parents in the Lord, honor thy father and mother." There is no generation gap so far as natural rebellion against God and his laws are concerned. This attitude was much the same in Old Testament days as it is now. God, then and now, pleads with parents and children to set their hope in God and not forget the works of God, but keep his commandments and not be as their fathers, a stubborn and rebellious generation, a generation that set not their heart aright and whose spirit was not steadfast with God. Psalm 78:7 and 8.

James T. Jeremiah:

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

"Then as now, they hated knowledge and did not choose the fear of the Lord, they would none of my counsel, they despised all my reproof," Proverbs 1:29 and 30. Sounds quite relevant and up-to-date, doesn't it? Rebellion spells disaster. Sometimes this takes the form of physical death. On the part of the unsaved soul, it always ends, if not corrected, in eternal and spiritual death. When God speaks to you, don't count it a mark of manliness and courage to rebel against him. Christian young people in particular, should carefully observe what the Bible teaches about the scriptural attitude of children to parents.

James T. Jeremiah:

This is widely related to the privilege and responsibility of living a godly life. God says, this is right. When the love of Christ controls the hearts of both parents and children, then parents will obey God and children will obey the parents. This blessed relationship becomes another strong section in the wall or fence in the Christian home. It is less likely that teenagers will go astray when God's order in the home is lovingly and faithfully observed and followed. With all lowliness and meekness, with long suffering, forbearing one another in love, and be ye kind one to another, tenderhearted, forgiving one another, even as God, for Christ's sake, hath forgiven you. Ephesians 4:2 and 32.

James T. Jeremiah:

Children are commanded to obey their parents. Loving parents and children will give sacrificially for the good of each other. Conversely, the teenager, without Christ in his heart, is a natural rebel against God and all authority. If he has been reared in a non-Christian home, he may have had additional exposure and experience that will encourage him in a life of lawlessness. The law of the land or the lack of it has also added a spirit of independence far from being an aid to law and order. Parents should be concerned about the personal salvation of their children.

James T. Jeremiah:

They need to pray with and for their unsaved children and bring them to Christ, to bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. Several years ago, this parent's prayer written by an unknown author appeared in The Sunday-School Times, "To us, we pray, Lord, give the joy of leading our own girl and boy, to that most blessed and holy place, where they will meet thee face-to-face, confess their sins, see Christ's ablation, then in faith, receive salvation. While they are still beneath our wing, accomplish, Lord, this holy thing, this joy, more sweet than any other, belongs to Christian father and mother. Christian parents, do not be indifferent to the spiritual condition of your children. They are not saved by virtue of their family relationship. They need to be born again. Then they will honor and obey.

James T. Jeremiah:

A national publication printed an article with a long, but interesting title, 14 Wonderful Inventions That Won't Save the World and Two That Might. The author then goes on to give a list of inventions that will fail in the goal of saving the world. But what about those two inventions that he thought might save the world? First, he was thinking of a new art of education, and secondly, a new kind of parent. About that new kind of parent, he said, I mean, parents realizing that 50% of their child's ability to learn takes place during the first four years of his life, when the child is directly under parental influence, will take the time and the trouble to instruct and to shape the young life.

James T. Jeremiah:

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

Really, the new kind of parent is the same kind portrayed long ago in the pages of the Bible who gave instruction to their children as soon as they were able to understand, and these words shall be in thine heart, teach them diligently unto thy children, talk of them. In thine house, when thou walkest by the way, and when thou lieth down and when thou risest up. Deuteronomy 6:6 and 7. Horace Bushnell said that every father and mother realize that when their child is three years of age, they have done more than half they will ever do for his character.

James T. Jeremiah:

Some parents say we will not influence our children to make choices and decisions in the matter of religion. Why not? The newspaper or the radio, the TV, their teachers, their neighbors, and the politicians will. We use our influence over flowers, vegetables, cattle, yes, even table manners. Shall we ignore our children? Our young people are becoming brainwashed in this godless society. This should be sufficient reason why every thinking Christian parent should be interested in Christian education. If we intend to keep our young people within the biblical battlements of our home, we must provide for them an education that is Christian.

James T. Jeremiah:

The teaching schedule must begin in infancy and continue through the years of higher education. Therefore, we must build and support Christian schools. When the importance of Christian schools is emphasized, someone is sure to say, I don't want my children educated in a spiritual hot house, protected from the philosophy and attacks of the world. Is this to say that we should care less for our children than we do for some fragile plant? If we possessed a very rare flower and desire to see it grow and blossom, would we protect it in a hot house or put it outdoors in sub-zero weather? The answer is obvious.

James T. Jeremiah:

Our Christian young people need to be taught, protected, and prepared to live and serve Christ in this world that desperately needs the savior. Our Christian youth generally will be better prepared if educated in Christian schools. Perhaps you argue that it is much cheaper to send your children to a secular college and save money for missionary endeavors so that the heathen can be converted. Are you really more concerned about the pagan across the sea than you are about your own children when you willingly subject them to intellectual pagans for their education? It is time some Christian parents gave greater consideration to the importance of Christian education.

James T. Jeremiah:

Age or position in life can never be an excuse for any Christian to say, he has no responsibility to support Christian education. Paul said, "Now, therefore, my son, be strong in the grace that is in Christ Jesus and the things thou has heard of me among many witnesses, the same commit thou to faithful men who shall be able to teach others also. Every Christian parent should be interested in a kind of education that excels both spiritually and academically. Let's not fear that our young people will be hot house teenagers if they attend Christian schools.

James T. Jeremiah:

They have a better possibility then of becoming trees planted by the waters who shall not see when heat cometh.

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

James T. Jeremiah:

Suppose that Paul had been converted at 70 instead of 25. There would have been no Paul in history. There was a Matthew Henry because he was converted at 11 and not at 70, a Dr. Isaac Watts because he was converted at nine and not at 60, a Jonathan Edwards because he was converted at eight, not at 80, a Richard Baxter because he was converted at six and not at 60. If our young people are not reached for Christ when they are young, they are likely not to be won to him at all.

James T. Jeremiah:

"Remember now thy creator in the days of thy youth while the evil days come not, or the years draw nigh when thou shall say, I have no pleasure in them." Ecclesiastes 12:1. Gather the people together, men and women and children, that they may hear and learn and fear the Lord, your God, that their children may hear and learn the fear of the Lord, your God as long as you live. Deuteronomy 31:12 and 13. Make sure you take your family to a Bible believing soul winning church. Avoid as the plague that religious organization that is not doing God's business as outlined in the scriptures.

James T. Jeremiah:

Dr. R. G. Lee said a man should take his whole family to church because he is to command his children after him and be a spiritual leader for his household. Because he should avoid the bad name of not providing for his household in matters of the spiritual. Because of the influence of righteous attendance at God's house will have upon the family, should take his children, his family to church because of the sweetening of home life, which will result from the influence bestowed at the church, because the preached word will cause members of a household to know the plan of salvation, because others are inspired to greater Christian living by the presence of whole families being found at church.

James T. Jeremiah:

Every Christian father should see that his family goes to church because God is glorified in such service rendered by whole families who worship and sing and give and listen to the preaching of the word of God in God's house. Faithfully, take your family to church and you will have put another strong plank on the fence or battlement. They keep your family protected from Satan's attacks and the world's temptations. A farmer had an only son whose conversion was the subject of daily prayer. The special evangelistic meetings came before it was possible to finish the seeding.

James T. Jeremiah:

The farmer invited the family to go to the first meeting, but, "Dad," said the boy, "you aren't going to leave the field by the lane unseeded. It will never be in as good a form again this season." "The field will have to take its chances," replied the father, "the meeting has its first place." The son was soundly converted. Less than a year later, he lay dying. As the father bent over him, the boy's arms went around his neck and with shining face, he drew him close, "Oh, dad," he whispered, "I am so glad you let the field wait." Patrick Henry added this closing statement to his will, "I have now disposed of all my property to my family. There is one more thing I wish I could give them, and that is the Christian religion."

James T. Jeremiah:

James T. Jeremiah
Campus Challenge: On the Home
circa 1975

"If they have that and I had not given them one shilling, they would be rich. And if they have not that, and I had given them all this world, they would be poor." No one is saved by attending or belonging to a church. All who think the door to heaven is church membership are resting in false hope. The local church can offer fellowship, Bible instruction, Christian service, and challenge that can and will serve as one of the battlements in our Christian homes. Many parents who in times past claimed to have no time to bring up their children in the nurture and admonition of the Lord would gladly give the rest of their lives to have a second chance, because their children are living in sin.

James T. Jeremiah:

What mother and father have any regrets because they did everything possible by practice and precept to teach their children the things of God? When the battlements of the home are scripturally and sincerely built, there can never be any regrets.