

## “Defending Your Cabbage Patch”

Rob Fantoni at The New Testament Church August 25, 2024

Personal Introduction: It’s been a LONG time but not my FIRST time.

### Message Introduction

1. Read 2 Samuel 23:11-12  
“And after him was Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite. The Philistines had gathered together into a troop where there was a piece of ground full of lentils. So, the people fled from the Philistines.  
But he stationed himself in the middle of the field, defended it, and killed the Philistines. So the Lord brought about a great victory.”
2. Shammah the son of Agee the Hararite was one of David’s mighty men (one of the top 3.)
3. There is no indication that the piece of ground he chose to defend was of strategic importance.
4. What is important, however, is that it was ground that he was given to defend in the service of his King, and when everyone else fled, he chose to stand and defend it.
5. In principle this applies to us: our King Jesus has given us certain ground to defend, and the brave will defend it at any cost.
6. Four areas that all of us, as Christians, must defend.

### #1: CONSCIENCE

1. Read Acts 24:16  
“This being so, I myself always strive to have a conscience without offense toward God and men.”
2. Our conscience should be our most sacred property (our founders certainly thought so.)
3. Definition: “The principle within us, which decides on the lawfulness or unlawfulness of our own actions and affections, and instantly approves or condemns them.”
4. The law referred to here is the Law of God -the internal government of God through Christ. It is CRITICAL to know His Word!
5. We can give TACIT consent (silent, implied but not expressed) OR EXPRESS consent. Christianity REQUIRES an ACTIVE confession of faith, ACTIVE acceptance of Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior.
6. As we learn the Word of God, and what God requires of us in thought and deed, we must govern our thoughts and actions according to what He requires and once we know what is right, we must have the courage to act on it if we want to keep our conscience CLEAN.
7. The story of Jesus with the woman caught in adultery.

### #2: FAITH

1. Read I Peter 3:15  
“But sanctify the Lord God in your hearts, and always be ready to give a defense to everyone who asks you a reason for the hope that is in you, with meekness and fear;”
2. You don’t have to be a bold evangelist or apologist, but Christianity DOES require an outward expression of inner beliefs.

3. Dennis Peacocke used to say that the problem with most Christians is that we are trying to be “nicer than Jesus.”
4. This is because we have a wrong idea about WHO JESUS IS (not just the Lamb of God but also the Lion of Judah.)
5. You cannot make a private deal with the devil (“I’ll leave you alone if you leave me alone.”)

### #3: HOME AND FAMILY

1. Read Nehemiah 4:13-14  
 “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. 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.’”
2. The people of Jerusalem were rebuilding the broken down wall around the city of Jerusalem while under constant threat of attack.
3. Great illustration of the truth that for all times and all places God’s people have been and will continue to be under constant threat of attack simply for doing God’s work.
4. We MUST protect our homes and our families. I am a Christian man, but if an intruder enters my home uninvited in the middle of the night....
5. This is not just a physical reality – we must guard the INFLUENCES and ideas that we allow into our homes.
6. This is not gender specific either, ladies....
7. Some of us are here today because someone in our family FOUGHT for us in prayer!

### #4: COUNTRY

1. Read 1 Samuel 4:9
2. “Be strong and conduct yourself like men, you Philistines, that you do not become servants of the Hebrews, as they have been to you. Conduct yourselves like men and fight!”
3. One of the worst things you can do is underestimate your adversary.
4. Much love and gratitude to all who serve or once served in our military to literally protect and defend our nation, putting your lives on the line to preserve our freedoms.
5. And yet the country you put your lives on the line for is, in some ways, barely recognizable if you view it only through what you see and hear from Hollywood and the mainstream media.
6. But this only gives you one narrow, jaded perspective. New York City and Los Angeles don’t pay much attention to the Midwestern farmer who works the field by day and gathers with his family at night. Or the New England fisherman, the Detroit auto worker, Boston cop or doctors, nurses, carpenters and pastors everywhere who faithfully go about their business every day outside the limelight and yet still hold at some level to the values that made our nation great and still believe America is WORTH DEFENDING.
7. The America you live in is more than just an idea. It is a living expression of the IDEA that “all men are created equal, endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable

rights..." that were not GRANTED by the GOVERNMENT therefore cannot be taken away by the same.

8. And yet most of us realize that our nation is indeed at a crossroads. But we must also realize that the root of our problems is SPIRITUAL, not POLITICAL; therefore, the solution must first be spiritual before it becomes political.
9. I agree with the 19<sup>th</sup> century French author who came to America to search for what made her great:  
"I sought for the greatness and genius of America in her commodious harbors, and her ample rivers -and it was not there...in her fertile fields and boundless forests -and it was not there...in her democratic Congress and her matchless Constitution -and it was not there. Not until I went into the churches of America and heard her pulpits flame with righteousness did I understand the secret of her genius and power. America is great because she is good, and if America ever ceases to be good, she will cease to be great."
10. If we want to ever be great again, we must begin to take back the moral high ground.
11. We've given too much ground to an enemy that we didn't have to -it was given to us. We've given our educational system away to those that hate our country and are seeking to destroy it so is it any wonder, after decades of this, that we see what we see in our nation today?
12. This country does not belong to the Socialists, the Marxists, the Communists or atheists. It belongs to almighty God and last I knew He was not registered as a Republican or Democrat. The Bible says He is registered as God Almighty, Maker of heaven and earth. His vote will not be nullified, stolen or compromised. His vote counts more than everyone else's put together and I'm grateful for that. He has given us much to defend. Let's stand in the middle of that field together and defend it.