



The  
**Gathering:**  
**THE FIGHT**  
**OR FLIGHT**  
**E D I T I O N**

**EVERY  
TUESDAY IN  
OCTOBER  
7:30 P.M.**

[www.rayofhope.org](http://www.rayofhope.org)




When you are faced with opposition  
will you stand firm or run in fear?

A large, stylized red graphic consisting of two concentric, curved lines that sweep across the top and right side of the slide, creating a white, semi-circular space. The background is a solid dark red color.

**Your Fight Can Change the Game!**

**Rev. Leah D. Jackson**

**Tuesday, October 5, 2021**



I have told you these things, so that in me you may have peace. In this world, you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world.


John 16:33

# Thlipsis

- Trouble
- Tribulation
- Persecution
- Affliction
- Distress
- Pressure

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Thlipsis involves Internal Pressure




Dear friends, do not be surprised at the fiery ordeal that has come on you to test you, as though something strange were happening to you.

1 Peter 4:12

# Fight or Flight Reflex

- Automatic physiological reaction to an event that is perceived as stressful or frightening.
- Evolutionary adaptations to increase the chances of survival in threatening situations.



How are we supposed to obey Jesus' word to "take heart" in the face of trouble, adversity, and persecution?






Fight the good fight of the faith.

1 Timothy 6:12


# Pistis (Faith)

- Moral Conviction
- Religious Truth
- Assurance
- Belief
- Trust



God presented Christ as a sacrifice of atonement, through faith (**pistis; trust**) in his blood. He did this to demonstrate his justice.

Romans 3:25




For we live by faith (pistis, firm conviction),  
not by sight.

2 Corinthians 5:7


# Emunah (Faith)

- Certainty in God
- Steadfastness
- Persistence



Abram believed (emunah, had committed faithfulness) in the Lord, and he credited it to him as righteousness.

Genesis 15:6



Aaron and Hur held his hands up—  
one on one side, one on the other—  
so that his hands remained steady  
(**emunah**) till sunset.

Exodus 17:12


# Agonizomai (Fight)

- Struggle
- To wrestle
- To contend with adversity
- To labor reverently
- To endeavor with strenuous zeal
- To strive to obtain something




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# Numbers 27:1-11



Take a census of the whole Israelite community by families—all those twenty years old or more who are able to serve in the army of Israel.

Numbers 26:2

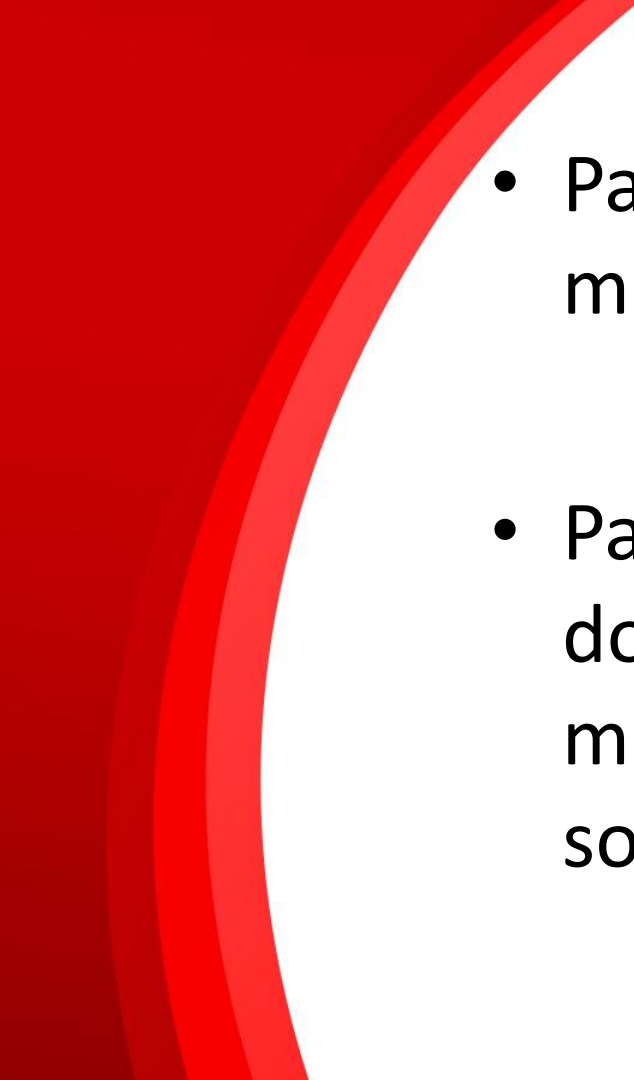



The land is to be allotted to them as an inheritance based on the number of names. To a larger group give a larger inheritance, and to a smaller group a smaller one; each is to receive its inheritance according to the number of those listed. Be sure that the land is distributed by lot. What each group inherits will be according to the names of its ancestral tribe. Each inheritance is to be distributed by lot among the larger and smaller groups

Numbers 26:53-56

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“Pater” means “Father”


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- A decorative graphic element consisting of two concentric red curved lines that sweep from the top left towards the bottom left of the slide.
- Patriarchal – is a structure where men have power over women.
  - Patriarchal society – is a male-dominated power structure that is manifested through organized society and individual relationships.

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Power in Israel was held by and passed down through the eldest males.


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Patrilineal - titles and property  
are inherited through males.

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Despite being the underdog, we can  
fight the fight of faith by speaking up.



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These women empowered themselves  
and they embraced the challenge.


# Dr. Les Parrott

## First Impulses


- "there's nothing I can do about it"
- "it's too difficult to even attempt"

## Second Impulses


- "I can't do everything, but I can do something"
- "I love a challenge"

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The Tent of Meeting was the designated place where God met Moses and the people.



Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah, Milcah, and Tirzah took their issue to the right place and to the right person.

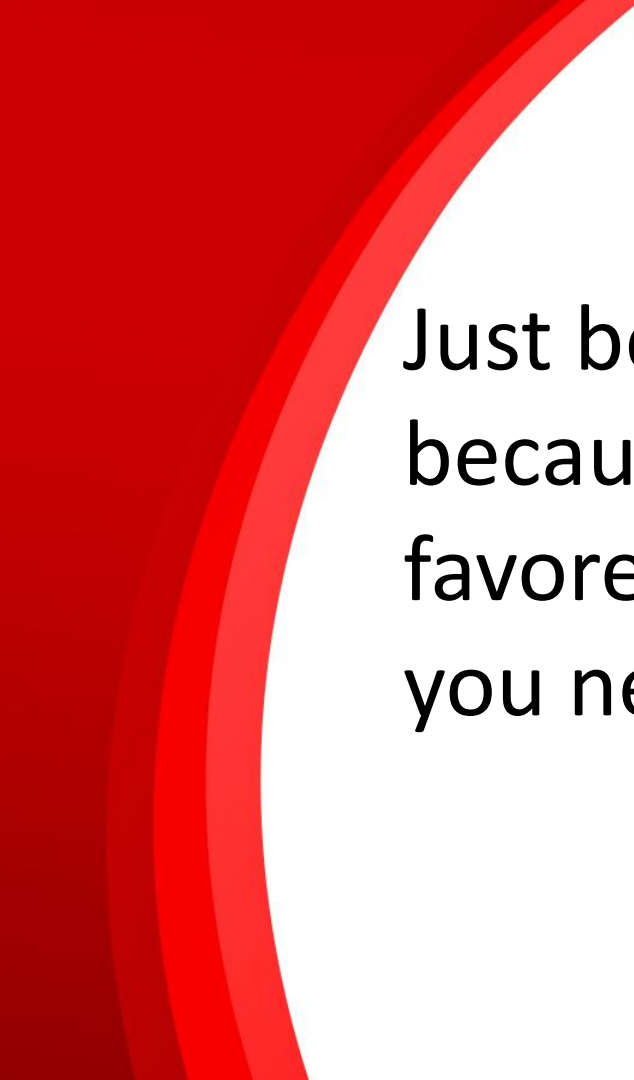


Proverbs 12:15, 11:14, 15:22, and 13:10  
tell us to seek and listen to wise counsel.

- **1 Chronicles 16:11** “Look to the Lord and his strength; seek his face always.”
- **Isaiah 55:6** “Seek the Lord while he may be found; call on him while he is near.”
- **Jeremiah 29:12** “Then you will call upon me and come and pray to me, and I will hear you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you, declares the Lord.”




These women took their issue to the Tent  
when **EVERYBODY** was there.

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Just because the fight is hard, and just because your opponent seems favored to win, does not mean that you need to fight in the dark.



- **Luke 8:17** - “for there is nothing hidden that will not be disclosed, and nothing concealed that will not be known or brought out into the open.”
- **Luke 12:3** - “What you have said in the dark will be heard in the daylight, and what you have whispered in the ear in the inner rooms will be proclaimed from the roofs.”


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Be open and forthright as you  
seek to resolve the matter.




For I, the Lord, love justice.


Isaiah 61:8



If we are pursuing justice, God is on our side. And if God be for us, who can be against us (Romans 8:31).




We must make sure that our character doesn't close the door in our faces, even when we are right or justified in our position.




We must live in such a way that people can't justifiably use our past as an excuse against us.


- **Proverbs 10:9** - “Whoever walks in integrity walks securely, but whoever takes crooked paths will be found out.”
- **Titus 2:7-8** - “In everything set them an example by doing what is good. In your teaching, show integrity, seriousness, and soundness of speech that cannot be condemned so that those who oppose you may be ashamed because they have nothing bad to say about us.”
- **Proverbs 11:3** - “The integrity of the upright guides them, but the unfaithful are destroyed by their duplicity.”

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- They boldly and plainly stated their issue.
  - They led with the unjust result that would come if they preceded as planned.
  - They pointed out the systemic flaw.
  - They made their demand.

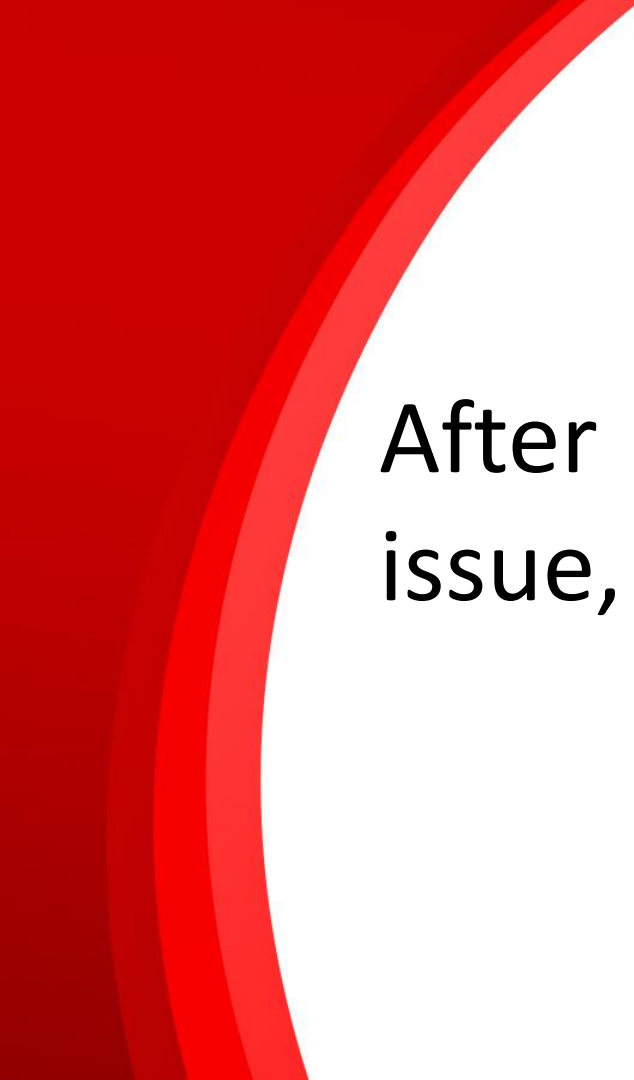




A man's meaning in the community is dependent upon the survival of his name. His name generally lives on through his sons and his land distribution.



Whether a rule, law, or practice has a discriminatory intent or a disparate impact, we must stand, persevere, be steadfast, and resist it in faith.

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After the women called out the issue, they made their demands.


- **Proverbs 28:1** “The wicked flee though no one pursues, but the righteous are as bold as a lion.”
- **Ephesians 3:12** “In Christ and through faith in him we may approach God with freedom and confidence.”
- **Hebrews 13:6** “The Lord is my helper; I will not fear; what can man do to me?”
- **Joshua 1:9** “Have I not commanded you? Be strong and courageous. Do not be frightened, and do not be dismayed, for the Lord your God is with you wherever you go.”



These women are right!

“Properly set upright, just, more right,  
true, correct.”


They are righteous.



When we speak up and petition the Lord  
and those in power for justice, we will be  
declared right, true, and righteous by God.

The image features a solid red background. A large, white, semi-circular arc is positioned in the upper half of the frame, creating a white space below it. The text "God changed the law." is centered within this white space.

God changed the law.



God used Mahlah, Noah, Hoglah,  
Milcah, and Tirzah to impact the  
present and transform the future.





You have the spirit of the living God  
inside of you, it's time to act like it!

# Questions

1. What situation has triggered your fight or flight reflex lately?
2. What do you need to “speak up” about?
3. How can you move from “there's nothing I can do about it” to “I can't do everything, but I can do something”?
4. What challenge do you need to embrace and not run away from?
5. How can a faithful response to your situation help someone?