

Revival: Where to Turn in Your Darkest Hour

2 Chronicles 17-20

Today, we will consider Asa's son, Jehoshaphat, who was forced into a situation where he did not know what to do. He even confessed, "I don't know what to do."

If you have ever been in this situation, his story, found in 2 Chronicles 20, will help you.

2 Chronicles 20:1-2 - The Ammonites, Moabites and Edomites are assembling their armies to attack Judah. They all lived on the east side of the Dead Sea. King David had conquered their nations, and now they were rebelling. 2 Sam 8:1-14

2 Chronicles 20:3-4 – Jehoshaphat does three strategic things in his darkest moment:

1. He resolved to seek the Lord. V. 3a

2. He called for a fast. V. 3b

3. He gathered the people. V. 4

Last week we learned God's promise to Asa: that the eyes of the Lord roam throughout the earth to show himself strong for those who are wholeheartedly devoted to him.

At the first sign of danger, Jehoshaphat sought the Lord because... he sought the Lord in all things. His heart was fully devoted to the Lord.

How is your heart these days? Who or what is it devoted to?

4. Jehoshaphat does a fourth strategic thing: He prayed. 2 Chronicles 20:5-12

In this prayer,

-Jehoshaphat reminds God of who He is and what He has done for them in the past.

-Jehoshaphat affirms their commitment to the Lord.

-Then he presents the problem, and He calls on God for justice.

-The climax of Jehoshaphat's prayer is, "We do not know what to do, but we look to You."

God's answer through the prophet, Jahaziel – 2 Chronicles 20:13-17

Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast number, for the battle is not yours, but God's.

– V. 15

How many times have you faced something terrible and felt like you were all alone in it?

If you are committed to the Lord, if you are *wholeheartedly devoted* to Him, then the eyes of the Lord are on you, to strengthen you. The battle you are facing is not yours, but God's.

5. The fifth thing Jehoshaphat does is lead the people in worship. 2 Chronicles 20:18-19

2 Chronicles 20:20 - The next day, all of Judah marched out to the community of Tekoa, twelve miles south of Jerusalem. Before they left, Jehoshaphat encouraged the people to believe in the Lord God and His prophets and success would be theirs.

6. The sixth thing he did was appoint people to sing. 2 Chronicles 20:21

He then appointed people to sing to and praise God as they marched in front of the armed forces. God is honored when we praise Him for Who he is. He then responds to His people's requests.

God's response – 2 Chronicles 20:22-23

God caused the armies of the three nations to turn on each other, destroying all.

Jehoshaphat and all the people do not know what has happened on the battlefield. They have not arrived yet. **2 Chronicles 20:24** says... *When Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked for the large army, but there were only corpses lying on the ground; nobody had escaped.*

7. The seventh thing Jehoshaphat did was to bless the Lord. 2 Chronicles 20:25-26

"Beracah" means, "blessing." The place became the Valley of Blessing. In essence, they gave thanks to God for His deliverance.

8. The eighth thing that all of Judah did was rest. 2 Chronicles 20:26-30

RECAP

This is the revival under King Jehoshaphat: A terrible disaster looks like it is going to ruin the nation. Nobody knows what to do. But one man, the king, stands up and says, "I'm going to seek the Lord."

He asks the nation to join him, in fasting, in gathering to pray and ask God to deliver them. God answers through Jahaziel. "I've got this." He speaks. "The battle is mine. I invite you to come and watch."

The people believe. They bow down to thank God in faith for what He is going to do, and they rise and praise Him with singing. Early the next morning, they sing their way to the battlefield, where, instead of having to engage the enemy, they find out that the enemy has engaged themselves.

So, the people help themselves to the spoils, return home and hold another worship service, and then they enjoyed the rest God gave them.

Lessons from Jehoshaphat's Revival:

1. ***God is available and attentive in your darkest moments. 2 Chronicles 20:17b***

2. ***Prayer is more powerful than any enemy. 2 Chronicles 20:12***

Even when we do not know for what to pray. Jehoshaphat's prayer is one of the simplest, yet most profound prayers in all of Scripture. He just says... *We do not know what to do, but we look to you. 2 Chronicles 20:12* Paul says the same thing in Romans 8:26

When you are in a dark moment, you do not have to have the solution to your problem. You just have to remember who does.

3. ***God is able to turn whatever comes against you against itself. 2 Chronicles 20:22***

God can take anything that is coming against you and use it for you... because He is for you.

4. ***God can turn evil into good. Romans 8:28***

In Romans 8, right after telling us that the Spirit prays for us when we do not know how to pray for ourselves, Paul says... *And we know that all things work together for the good of those who love God, who are called according to his purpose. Romans 8:28*

Jehoshaphat's enemies thought they were coming to steal, kill, and destroy. They did not know they were coming to turn over their personal possessions to the Israelites.