

“Lessons from Jehoshaphat”

2 Chronicles 20:1-15

Sermon Date: January 24th, 2021

Faithful Pastor – Eddie Passmore

Reflections on Sunday’s Sermon

**We are taking one more week off from our regular study in John as we will have a guest pastor coming to preach the Word this Sunday. This weekend is our annual “Faithful Pastor” weekend, in which we take the time to encourage and appreciate a pastor who has been faithful to shepherd his flock well. This year we have invited Eddie Passmore and his wife Maggi to come from Tijuana, Mexico, where they have faithfully served as the Directors of Mexico Caravan Ministries for over 17 years (he has been faithfully serving in various full-time ministry capacities for over 40 years altogether).*

Prayer

As you begin your study this week, spend some time thanking the Lord for bringing forth circumstances that drive your attention to Him. Ask that He would continually remind you of all that He has done in the past and give you confidence in who He is and in what He will do in the days ahead. As you pray, make the following words your own before the Lord (prayer written by Robert Hawker and taken from Piercing Heaven: Prayers of the Puritans, edited by Robert Elmer).

“Gracious Lord!

Nothing can reconcile us to you better than to humbly and patiently learn obedience in the school of suffering.

We learn by knowing that Jesus, though you are the Son of God, in the eternity of your nature you were pleased in your human nature to learn obedience by the things which you suffered.

Precious Jesus! To your love, and your grace, be all praise and glory. Under your banner of love alone we are more than conquerors...

I desire only you. With my soul have I desired you in the night. And now, with the first dawn of day, I seek you early.

Lord, show me your person, glory, grace, and love, and fill every portion of my heart...I pray that my view of your grace and sense of my unworthiness may melt my whole soul before you and your presence...

So when my poor heart is afflicted, when Satan storms, or the world frowns, when I suffer sickness, or when all your waves and storms seem to go over me, what relief it is to know that you, Jesus, see me. And that you care!

So help me, Lord, to look to you, and remember you. And oh! That blessed Scripture: ‘In all their affliction he was afflicted, and the angel of his presence saved them; in his love and in his pity he redeemed them; he lifted them up and carried them all the days of old.’ Amen.

Scripture

2 Chronicles 20:1–15 – (English Standard Version)

1 After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. **2** Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi). **3** Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. **4** And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the LORD, before the new court, **6** and said, “O LORD, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. **7** Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? **8** And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, **9** ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.’ **10** And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy—**11** behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. **12** O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

13 Meanwhile all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. **14** And the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. **15** And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the LORD to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s.

Handling the Word

1. The main character in our passage is King Jehoshaphat. Go to the following link for more information about this fascinating king of Judah and to help you as you begin your study:
<https://www.gotquestions.org/King-Jehoshaphat.html>
 2. The main enemies of Judah in this story are the Moabites and Ammonites. Spend a few minutes on-line, or in one of your Bible Encyclopedias, and write down what you discover about these two nations to aid in your understanding and background of this important story.

Understanding and Applying

- When facing imminent danger and fearing for himself and his people, what is the first thing Jehoshaphat does (v. 3)? What is often your first response in such circumstances? What does this tell us about the faith of Jehoshaphat and what can we learn from his response?
 - Three times in verses 3-4, the phrase “*seek the Lord*” or “*seek help from the Lord*” is used. Look up the following verses and write down what you discover about why we should seek the Lord and how the Lord helps his people:
 - Psalm 3 –
 - Psalm 30:1-5 –
 - Psalm 54 –
 - Zechariah 9:14-17 –
 - Jehoshaphat begins his prayer in verse 6. Write down some of the important statements from this opening line of his prayer. Why do you think Jehoshaphat opened his prayer this way, and why would these truths about God have been important for him and the people to understand?
 - Jehoshaphat’s statement in verse 9 seems to be a real cry and statement of commitment. Write down what he says. Do you find yourself having that same commitment in the face of trials? How can this change in your own life?
 - Romans 8:35-39 is similar to Jehoshaphat’s prayer in verse 9. Read through Paul’s profound statements in Romans 8 and write down what you learn about God’s commitment to you and to his love for you. What difference should this make in your own life in the midst of difficult and uncertain times?

6. The last phrase of Jehoshaphat's prayer in verse 12 is profound: "*We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.*" How do you relate to this prayer? Look up the following verses and write down what they say that may help encourage us to keep our eyes on the Lord:
- Proverbs 3:5-7 –
 - Psalm 119:105 –
 - Hebrews 12:1-3 –
7. In verses 13-15, the prophet Jehovah, speaks to the king and all the people and declares that, "*the battle is not yours but God's.*" In the midst of their understandable fear, why would this statement have been especially encouraging to them? What can we learn about this truth and apply to our own lives?
8. This passage is a tremendous story of faith and courage and reliance upon God in the face of a terrifying time. For many today, we're also living in a scary time. What big lessons can we learn from this passage and apply to our own lives today? Read Hebrews 11:1-12:2 and write down lessons you learn from the history and people of faith that have come before us and how those lessons ought to impact our lives today.
9. What in this passage leads you to respond in worship of God? Why is that particular truth especially meaningful in your life right now?

"Here is hope for every weary traveler whose feet are tired of the slippery instability of mud in a fallen world. Your weariness is a signpost. It's meant to cause you to cry out for help. It's meant to cause you to quit looking for your stability horizontally and begin to cry out for it vertically...Your weariness is meant to drive you to God. He is the Rock for which you are longing."

Paul David Tripp