What to Do When We Do Not Know What to Do

Text: II Chronicles 20:1-12
Key verse: II Chronicles 20:12

"It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle." (II Chronicles 20:1). Jehoshaphat was overwhelmed with the multitude that now aligned themselves against him and Judah. King Jehoshaphat and all of Judah now attempt to change the fear of man into the fear of God and pray for Divine deliverance. This good king is wisely reminding the great God, whom he serves, that the land was given to them by God since the days of Father Abraham. II Chronicles 20:6: "…O LORD God of our fathers, art not thou God in heaven? and rulest not thou over all the kingdoms of the heathen? and in thine hand is there not power and might, so that none is able to withstand thee?" The king understands that God rules and reigns in His high and holy heaven and there is no restraint to God Who also has authority over the nations that do not accept Him or His sovereignty. Jehoshaphat also reminds the Lord that when Israel came out of Egypt they were not permitted to fight against these nations. It is as if the king were saying, Lord, these heathen should show us gratitude for not removing them from the land those many centuries ago.

Now in desperation King Jehoshaphat cries out in II Chronicles 20:12, "O our God, wilt thou not judge them? for we have no might against this great company that cometh against us; neither know we what to do: but our eyes are upon thee." And this brings us to our message this morning: "What do we do when we don't know what to do? For an answer, let us go back to this miraculous turn of events and see what Jeshoshaphat and Judah did.

1. PRAY, REQUESTING WHAT IS NOT ONLY BEST FOR YOU, BUT FOR YOUR FAMILY, AND THOSE WHOM GOD HAS PLACED IN YOUR LIFE FOR WHOM YOU ARE RESPONSIBLE.

II Chronicles 20:13: "And all Judah stood before the LORD, with their little ones, their wives, and their children."

Let's examine some Scripture and see how God views the little ones. II Timothy 3:15; I Kings 14:13; Jonah 4:11; Mark 10:13, 14: "And they brought young children to Him, that He should touch them: and

His disciples rebuked those that brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was much displeased, and said unto them, Suffer the little children to come unto Me, and forbid them not: for of such is the kingdom of God."

2. GIVE THE BATTLE TO GOD.

II Chronicles 20:15: "And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, Thus saith the LORD unto you, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for the battle *is* not yours, but God's."

Like his ancestor before him, Jehoshaphat turns the enemy over to God. David, as the youthful shepherd set a precedent for all godly leaders after him. I Samuel 17:47: "And all this assembly shall know that the Lord saveth not with sword and spear: for the battle is the Lord's, and He will give you into our hands." God never loses! What battle are you fighting today? Won't you give it to the Lord? Exodus 15:2, 3: "The Lord is my strength and song, and He is become my salvation: He is my God, and I will prepare Him an habitation; my father's God, and I will exalt Him. The Lord is a Man of War: the Lord is His name." Recently, journalist Frank Luntz went to West Point to observe the cadets. Frank said when he inquired about the war fighting program, he was corrected by the leadership and said, "We are not training for war fighting, we are training for war winning." Even the best trained fighting units may fail, but our Lord, Who is a Man of War never fails.

3. WAIT ON GOD AND DO NOT ACT UNTIL HE GIVES AN ANSWER.

II Chronicles 20:17: "Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you, O Judah and Jerusalem: fear not, nor be dismayed; to morrow go out against them: for the LORD will be with you."

This could be unnerving to the warrior who is equipped and trained to fight and to use the weapons of war at his disposal. But the Lord says, get ready for the battle and prepare to not fight! When we are in trouble, by nature we fight or take flight. In this instance God says, "Be still!" Psalm 46:10: "Be still, and know that I am God: I will be exalted among the heathen, I will be exalted in the earth." Isaiah 40:31; Psalm 27:14; Proverbs 20:22: "Say not thou, I will recompense evil; but wait on the Lord, and He shall save thee."

4. HONE YOUR HEART IN WORSHIP.

II Chronicles 20:18: “And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with *his* face to the ground: and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.” This is the first step in giving this battle to God. It is not, “Charge!” It is “Get on your face before God and worship! Give glory to God! Magnify Him! Be caught up in the wonder of His Person!” Once while standing on the shore of Galveston Beach, I looked through a powerful telescope at Saturn. Without the magnification, Saturn was but another little star twinkling in the sky above. But when my vision was magnified, I saw the glory of her sphere and the magnificence of the legendary rings of Saturn. Saturn did not become bigger; my vision was enhanced. This was so important for Jehoshaphat and Judah: pause, bow down and see the vison of the bigger God! When God is little in our eyes, the enemy is gigantic. But when we see a big God, the enemy becomes small!

5. TRUST IN THE LORD.

II Chronicles 20:20: “And they rose early in the morning, and went forth into the wilderness Tekoa: and as they went forth, Jehoshaphat stood and said, Hear me, O Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem; Believe in the LORD your God, so shall ye be established; believe His prophets, so shall ye prosper.”

In II Chromicles 18 Ahab enlists Jehoshaphat to join him in the battle of Ramoth-gilead. To give Jehoshaphat the assurance that all will be well, he brings in 400 false prophets who all “kiss up” to Ahab, telling him just what he wants to hear. Jehosaphat was not satisfied. I Kings 22:7, 8: “And Jehoshaphat said, Is there not here a prophet of the Lord besides, that we might enquire of him? And the king of Israel said unto Jehoshaphat, There is yet one man, Micaiah the son of Imlah, by whom we may enquire of the Lord: but I hate him; for he doth not prophesy good concerning me, but evil. And Jehoshaphat said, Let not the king say so.” Michiah told the truth and the battle was lost and Ahab was killed. After careful examination of the rejection of the prophet Micaiah by Ahab, Jehoshaphat makes a special point of hearing and obey God’s prophets.

II Corinthians 5:7: “For we walk by faith, not by sight.” Romans 14:23b: “…for whatsoever is not of faith is sin.”

6. GIVE PRAISE TO GOD FOR ALL HE HAS DONE AND WHAT HE SHALL DO.

II Chronicles 20:22: **“**And when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushments against the children of Ammon, Moab, and mount Seir, which were come against Judah; and they were smitten.”

Our Lord led the disciples in singing a psalm directly after instituting the ordinance of the Lord’s Supper and before entering into Gethsemane (Matthew 26:26-30). The angels sang the praise of God in the mornings of creation (Job 38:4-7). Our Lord experiences such joy that at times He fills Heaven with His song (Zephaniah 3:14-17).

-Pastor Pope-