

PRAISE HIM IN ADVANCE

2 Chronicles 20

Since this lesson is only a few weeks before Thanksgiving, why not talk about a time where praising God was essential. Let's go back to the time of Kings and how one in particular turned to God for help with impending doom.

1.) Who came to attack Jehoshaphat and the people of Judah?

2 Chronicles 20:1-2

2.) Interesting fact about the Moabites and Amorites, they were related to the Israelites. The Israelites trace their genealogy to Abraham whereas the Moabites and Amorites are related to Abraham's nephew Lot (*Genesis 19:30-38*). Think about why are some of your greatest enemies or roadblocks the people closest to you (family, friends, co-workers, classmates). What is a good way to overcome their negative influence?

3.) How did Jehoshaphat respond to the news of the impending war?

2 Chronicles 20:3-4

4.) The King prayed and turned to God for help. What did he say in his prayer?

2 Chronicles 20:5-12

5.) Examine Jehoshaphat's prayer. What are some key elements that we can learn from him and apply to our own prayers?

6.) What was God's solution?

2 Chronicles 20:13-17

7.) How did the people respond to God's solution?

2 Chronicles 20:18-19

8.) Describe what happened when the people of Judah went out to meet the enemy. What did they do and what did God do to the Moabites and Ammonites?

2 Chronicles 20:20-23

9.) What blessing happened for the people of Judah? Describe their relationship with God after the event.

2 Chronicles 20:24-30

10.) This is one case where we see God take full control of the situation after praise was given. Often we see in the Bible that people praise God after he has helped them. Is there a difference between when we praise God and the timing of His blessing? What do you tend to do in your relationship with Him?

11.) It was from a great calamity that a huge blessing came to Judah. How has God helped you from a terrible situation and a huge blessing came from it. (If you can't think of a personal situation, then write an example of something like this happening.)

12.) What would have been your response if you were in the choir placed before the army? Remember that they were in front of the army marching towards a group of warriors ready to kill.

13.) Jehoshaphat used great skills in how he dealt with a tremendous problem facing his nation. As a leader, what can you learn from him and apply it to your life and the people God placed under your care?

Just a Thought

I remember talking with my wife about the idea of praising God in advance of receiving the blessing or healing from a situation. We often say or sing about this but in reality this idea is not very common in the Bible. That's not to say that it is not a great thing as we can learn from this story from the Bible. After all, in reality every battle is in fact, God's battle. He will make sure that you are more than able to overcome any situation. What we have to do is listen to what He prescribes and go with it. Just like Jehoshaphat who was thrilled with God's solution, so should we be with what He says in our lives.

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