

Can You Relate?

King Jehoshaphat: Facing A Tough Situation

2 Chronicles 20



Leap
of FAITH
Hebrews 11:1



2 Chronicles 20:1-12 (NKJV)

1 It happened after this that the people of Moab with the people of Ammon, and others with them besides the Ammonites, came to battle against Jehoshaphat.

2 Then some came and told Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from Syria; and they are in Hazazon Tamar” *(which is En Gedi)*.

3 And Jehoshaphat feared, and set himself to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

4 So Judah gathered together to ask help from the Lord; and from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

5 Then 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, and do You not rule over all the kingdoms of the nations, and in Your hand is there not power and might, so that no one is able to withstand You?

7 Are You not our God, who drove out the inhabitants of this land before Your people Israel, and gave it to the descendants of Abraham Your friend forever?

8 And they dwell in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying,

9 'If disaster comes upon us—sword, judgment, pestilence, or famine—we will stand before this temple and in Your presence (for Your name is in this temple), and cry out to You in our affliction, and You will hear and save.'

10 And now, here are the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir—whom You would not let Israel invade when they came out of the land of Egypt, but they turned from them and did not destroy them

11 here they are, rewarding us by coming to throw us out of Your possession which You have given us to inherit.

12 O our God, will You not judge them? For we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon You.”

Seek The Lord

Alarmed by the intelligence and conscious of his total inability to repel this host of invaders, Jehoshaphat felt his only refuge was at the horns of the altar. He resolved to employ the aid of his God, and, in conformity with this resolution, he summoned all his subjects to observe a solemn fast at the sanctuary. It was customary with the Hebrew kings to proclaim fasts in perilous circumstances, either in a city, a district, or throughout the entire kingdom, according to the greatness of the emergency. On this occasion, it was a universal fast, which extended to infants.

(2 Chron. 20:13)

Seek The Lord

When you see big problems on the horizon,
seek the Lord before you do anything else.

Psalm 17:6 (NKJV)

I have called upon You, for You will hear me, O God; Incline Your ear to me, *and* hear my speech.

Seek The Lord

If God is the Almighty One, and if He understands our dreadful predicament, then it behooves us to ask for His help. This is precisely what Jehoshaphat did. After *initiating praises*, after *identifying the problem* of his powerlessness, Jehoshaphat *implores the Lord* with the words, **“our eyes are upon Thee”** (20:12).

Does Prayer Change Things?

Does prayer make any difference? Does it really change anything? Yes, though we cannot hope that our prayers will change God's mind, prevailing upon Him to act against His will, we can be sure that prayer does change things—including our own hearts. Plus, it is one of the chief means by which God carries out His will in the world.

Hear The Lord

God always has a special word for those who turn to Him for help. When you face a battle, spend much time in His Word and in prayer, for then He will give you that needed word of encouragement.

Romans 10:17 (NKJV)

So then faith comes by hearing, and hearing by the word of God.

Praise The Lord

The battle was won by the singers, standing in the most dangerous place of all—between two armies. But they sang the Lord's praises and routed the enemy. The choir praised God after God gave the word (*v. 19*), before the battle (*v. 21*), and after the victory (*vv. 26–28*), a good pattern for us to follow in our praise.

Praise The Lord

In Hebrew, *Berachah* means “blessing” (v. 26). Even a valley can become a place of blessing if we learn how to praise the Lord. “Prayer changes things” is a familiar saying that is certainly true. But it is also true that “praise changes things.” Why? Because true praise changes people, and God can work in and through people who praise Him. True praise involves faith, hope, and love, the strongest weapons in the Christian armory.

1 Corinthians 10:4 (NKJV)

4 and all drank the same spiritual drink. For they drank of that spiritual Rock that followed them, and that Rock was Christ.

5 But with most of them God was not well pleased, for their bodies were scattered in the wilderness.

6 Now these things became our examples, to the intent that we should not lust after evil things as they also lusted.

Victory in Prayer and Praise

Jehoshaphat turned his eyes upon the Lord, and he was subsequently delivered from the hands of his enemies. If we were to read on in the passage, you would see how the Lord caused the enemies of Judah to turn on one another. As a result, the people of Judah did not even have to go to war.

The people of Judah were powerless, but they worshipped, and sought after, a God who was all-powerful; a God who would fight on their behalf.