

Sermon: My Favorite Prayer

Text: 2 Chronicles 20

Introduction:

As we continue our journey through 2 Chronicles—examining how we can hear God's Voice in a world of noise—we find three armies (Moabites, Ammonites & Meunites) marching toward Jerusalem to wipe out the nation of Judah. These armies are only about 40 miles away when King Jehoshaphat learns of this. As you can imagine, King Jehoshaphat is pretty freaked out because they've got lots of soldiers. When your war looks unwinnable, who ya gonna call? Yahweh.

Jehoshaphat prays to God and tells the Almighty that they're nothing without Him. They're totally relying on God to win this one. Remember, God, you did tell everyone down there in Judah that if they loved you and followed your laws you would help them. Seems like now would be the perfect time to do that!

God lets everyone know that he'll take their side in the battle the next day. No worries. He's got this. Everyone is relieved and they praise God.

The next morning, Jehoshaphat tells everyone to keep the faith and arranges for some singers to praise God. God follows through. He sends an ambush for the enemy and they all end up attacking and fighting each other instead. Once all the fighting's over and everyone in the Moabite and Ammonite armies are dead, the Judeans are free to pick through their corpses for things of value. The spoils of war, etc. Everyone comes back into Jerusalem celebrating and praising God.

Examination:

- **Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-30**
 - Why do you think God puts Old Testament stories like this in the Bible?
 - Do you believe that difficulties lead us back to God? Has this been true for you?
 - What threat came against Jehoshaphat? What made the threat so serious? (vv. 1-2) Who were those that made that threat (see Genesis 19:36-38)? Where were they located?
 - Have you ever encountered a foe that overwhelmed your resources? How did you respond?
 - What was King Jehoshaphat's immediate response to this threat? (vv. 3-4)
 - What was good about Jehoshaphat's response in relationship to the people he served? How did the people respond to him?
 - How would you summarize Jehoshaphat's prayer? (vv. 5-13)
 - From your own experience, what are some of the basic parts of prayer? What parts are seen here in the king's prayer?
 - Can a person pray without faith?
 - Do you ever find times when you find yourself praying without really talking to the Lord?

- How did Jehoshaphat show through his prayer that he was really talking to the Lord?
- What promise did Jehoshaphat refer to in verses 5-9? (see 2 Chronicles 6-7)
- Why is it important to seek God's will? How do we know Jehoshaphat was seeking God's will?
- What is it about Jehoshaphat's words in v. 12 that truly express the cry of every human heart?
- Do you regularly seek God in His Word? What is holding you back? What are you asking Him now? If it is not His will, do you really want those things? What are some things that God wants that you are not seeking Him for? Why not?
- How did God speak to Jehoshaphat? (vv. 14-19) How does God speak to His people today?
- Who did God use to be "His Voice"? (vv. 14-15) How does this fit with the pattern that we are seeing throughout the book of 2 Chronicles?
- What is the first thing that God spoke to Jehoshaphat about? How did this help him?
- What instructions did God give to the king? Was this easy or hard to do?
- How did the king respond to the Lord's order? (vv. 20-23) Did he do it?
- The king did something that was within God's order but a little different. What was this?
- Why is praise and declaration of God's greatness so important during such critical times? Why is it important in the times that we find ourselves in today?
- The Lord often challenges our faith and gives us something to do as we seek His wisdom. Can you think of a situation in your own life when this has been the case?
- What did the king and the Israelites do? What did they see from the lookout? How did it compare to what God promised? (vv. 24-30)
- What did they call that valley? What does it mean and why do you think they have called it that? Are there any other examples of special places that got names to remind a person of God's mighty work? How about in your life?
- List the benefits from obedience. What did they do on the fourth day?

Application:

What would you tell someone (based on this passage and your own life experience) who told you, "Yea, I would like to meet God in this way but I don't know how." How would you answer them?