

Sermon: The Book

Text: 2 Chronicles 17

Introduction:

Jesus, as He concluded His “sermon on the mount” as recorded in Matthew 5-7, used a simple metaphor to drive the message home. He described a wise person—and a foolish person. The wise person, Jesus said, is like a person who builds their house upon a rock. Even when life gets extremely difficult—even when the “winds blow and beat against the house”—this wise person’s house will not fall or crumble. It will stand firm because it had been built upon the rock. The foolish person, by contrast, has built their life upon sand. Their lives have no solid foundation. The outward appearance of their lives might look good. However, when the difficulties of life come along (as they always do), this person won’t do well at all. Their emotions will crumble. Their spiritual life will crumble. They simply won’t have the wherewithal to handle whatever difficulty they face.

Earlier in the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus had made this extremely important statement:

“But seek first his kingdom and his righteousness, and all these things will be given to you as well.” Matthew 6:33

What Jesus is saying in all of this is that we need to base our lives on the Truth of God, and His Word. We have to LOOK for God—and SEEK AFTER His kingdom.

The most clear and lasting “rock” upon which to build our lives is the Bible. The Word of God. The Holy Scriptures. God is speaking to us on every page of the Bible. To “seek first His kingdom” is to look for God in His divinely revealed Word. When we base our lives upon the Scriptures, our lives can withstand any storm that we might face.

This is precisely why King Jehoshaphat, three years after becoming the king at the age of 35, set out to teach God’s Word to all of the people in the nation of Judah. He knew that to put God first in this way—the Lord would pour out His blessings and His divine protection. Which is precisely what we see happening in today’s passage.

Examination:

- **Read 2 Chronicles 17**

- What was the first thing that Jehoshaphat did after taking the throne following his father’s (Asa) death? (v. 1)
- Why do you think that he “strengthened himself against Israel”? How did he display this strength?
- Who was Jehoshaphat measured against in verse 3?
- What did Jehoshaphat do initially to show his devotion to God? (vv. 3-4)
- What do you think it means that “the LORD with Jehoshaphat?” Do you think that God can “be with us” in the same way?
- What was David to him, really?
- Who was one of the false gods of Israel?
- What did all Judah bring to Jehoshaphat? (v. 5) Did they do this, because it was required?
- Who do you think is blessed, when the king follows God?

- Verse 6 says he did what?
- What special thing did he do in the third year of his reign? (vv. 7-9)
- Why do you think Jehoshaphat did this?
- Is there anything you can compare to this in our world today?
- Who did he send to teach them the law?
- What is the comment the author made on verse 9?
- And the fear of the _____ fell upon all the kingdoms of the lands that were round about Judah. (v. 10)
- What were the Philistine's gifts, really?
- What did the Arabians bring to Jehoshaphat?
- What did Jehoshaphat build during this time? (v. 12)
- Who was the captain, that was like a general?
- Whose men were armed with bow and shield?
- The total of capable fighting men is over 1,000,000. Does that seem like a lot to you? Why do you think the writer of 2nd Chronicles (likely Ezra the priest) wanted us to know this?

Application:

This entire series is about hearing the voice of God. How does this happen in this chapter?

Are you allowing the Lord to speak to you through his Holy Word? What can you do this week to allow that to happen in greater measure?