

In God We Trust: The Battle Belongs to the Lord

Wylie United Methodist Church

Pastor Jeff Hatcher – January 24, 2021

2 Chronicles 20:1-18

1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat. 2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea...". 3 Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. 4 The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him. 5 Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard 6 and said: "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you. 7 O our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, 9 'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.' 10 "But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. 11 See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. 12 O our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you." 13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord. 14 Then the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah... a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. 15 He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. 16 Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. 17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.'" 18 Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.

As followers of Jesus Christ we should...

1. **RECOGNIZE THERE IS A BATTLE AND WHO THE ENEMY IS**

2 Chronicles 20:2

2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you...".

Ephesians 6:12-13

12 For OUR STRUGGLE IS NOT AGAINST FLESH AND BLOOD, but against the rulers, against the authorities, against the powers of this dark world and against the spiritual forces of evil in the heavenly realms. 13 THEREFORE put on the full armor of God, SO THAT when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground...

2. **RESOLVE TO INQUIRE OF THE LORD**

2 Chronicles 20:3-4

3 Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord... 4 The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

3. **RELENTLESSLY FAST AND PRAY**

2 Chronicles 20:3, 5

3... [Jehoshaphat] proclaimed a fast for all Judah. 5 Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly ... (and prayed):

4. **REALIZE THAT THE BATTLE IS THE LORD'S AND HE ALWAYS WINS**

2 Chronicles 20:15, 17

15... This is what the Lord says to you: 'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's. 17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you... Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.'"

5. **RESPOND WITH HUMBLE PRAISE**

2 Chronicles 20:18

18 Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.