

The Stewardship of Generations: *Our HOPE* & Future

(2 Chronicles 20:1-30)

A defining moment, on the diving board, Jump or not: Nervous; anxious; people watching...do u?

As a church family, we have been on a journey together. A journey to renew our identity as a church; a journey to clarify our mission together. A journey to call us each to engage with this local church to be on mission for the glory of God. **What has God been calling you to these many months?**

-June = A Missional Life

-July = A whole disciple (Known, Growing, Serving, On Mission)

-August = GENERATIONS INITIATIVE: Spiritual & Financial Stewardship

****Today: A call to commitment. Each family here responding to obedience to the Lord.**

-Our church is a family of families. **What will each family do to respond to God's leading?**

The goal of this series has been to help us learn to **TRUST** God the Giver, to see trust as act of worship!

*Our truest worship begins in the *yielding* of our self, our desires, our possessions *to* God in order to have the Lord **replace** things we hold in this life with the **insatiable desire for Him most.**

=He becomes the prize!

All we are (life; breath; body; future) **and all we have** (what we touch) **belongs to HIM:** **believe?**

-Our **Lives** belong to Jesus: (life; breath; body; future) -all that we TOUCH: belongs to HIM.

-Our **Families** belong to Jesus (we give them back *as soon as* we get them) -**Child dedication?**

-Our **Jobs** belong to Jesus (He alone gives us power to make wealth)

-Our **Church** belongs to Jesus (His Bride is worth our best effort to serve & bless)

-Our **Money** belongs to Jesus (Generosity is a test of faithfulness of God's provision)

-Our **Future** belongs to Jesus. (Our fears: uncertainties; the unknown - our suffering, our loss, our disappointment, our failures each belong to Jesus).

-Every **GENERATION** belongs to Jesus. (They are ours to steward as precious gifts to cherish!)

-Our **Identity** as a church: A church on MISSION. God's Glory. Worship of God in all ways
MISSION =ALL Generations worshipping God. HOW? **Spiritual Stewardship....**

-Are you ALL in as a member? Are you all in? **KNOWN, GROWING, SERVING, ON Mission???**

=Leading your self spiritually; seeing others' needs; selfless; LEADING others spiritually.

-Financial Stewardship.... (But I'm afraid; what if we don't have enough? if can't? won't?)

Main Point: Our HOPE is in Jesus first; Our life and our *everything* belong to Jesus; therefore, our hope and our future are secure *in* Jesus. Everything else is in this life is a part of the journey of transformation -to be made Christlike. A life of JOYFUL **worship... no*

matter what!!

(our high's/low's -wins/defeats -successes/failures -brokenness/healing -blessings/losses -**risks**)

=ALL of this in our life is to mold us into Christlikeness and give us more of Him = JOY

2 Chronicles 20:1-30 -Jehoshaphat=imperfect King of Judah; turned people back to Word; worsh.

1. Evil always want to defeat, disrupt, and bring doubt wherever God is at work to transform lives. We should never be surprised when attacks come in the work of God.

Vs. 1: Now it came about after this, that the sons of Moab and the sons of Ammon, together with some of the ^[a]Meunites, came to make war against Jehoshaphat. ² Then some came and

reported to Jehoshaphat, saying, “A great multitude is coming against you from beyond the sea, from ^[b]Aram; and behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar (that is Engedi).”³ Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention ^[set his face] to seek the Lord; and he proclaimed a period of fasting throughout Judah. ⁴ So Judah gathered together to seek help from the Lord; they even came from all the cities of Judah to seek the Lord.

-Ever felt like no good deed in your life goes unpunished?? Nothing in this life is easy? Battle?

2. There is power in prayer. Jehoshaphat knew *where* to turn and *when* to turn to Him. He trusted in God; He believed in God’s power, sovereignty; wisdom; and goodness for them! He asked for God’s help; for God’s intervention; for God to show up to rescue & deliver them!

Vs. 5: Then Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord in front of the new courtyard; ⁶ and he said, “Lord, God of our fathers, are You not God in the heavens? And are You not ruler over all the kingdoms of the nations? Power and might are in Your hand so that no one can stand against You. ⁷ Did You not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land from Your people Israel, and give it to the descendants of Your friend Abraham forever? ⁸ They have lived in it, and have built You a sanctuary in it for Your name, saying, ⁹ ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, *or* judgment, or plague, or famine, we will stand before this house and before You (**for Your name is in this house**), and cry out to You in our distress, and You will hear and save *us*.’ ¹⁰ Now behold, the sons of Ammon, Moab, and ^[d]Mount Seir, whom You did not allow Israel to invade when they came out of the land of Egypt (for they turned aside from them and did not destroy them), ¹¹ see *how* they are rewarding us by coming to drive us out from Your possession which You have given us as an inheritance. ¹² Our God, will You not judge them? For we are powerless before this great multitude that is coming against us; **nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are on You.**”

¹³ All Judah was standing before the Lord, with their infants, their wives, and their children.

3. God loves to answer Prayer. He has hard-wired this universe to work on prayer.

¹⁴ Then in the midst of the assembly the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, the Levite of the sons of Asaph; ¹⁵ and he said, “Listen, all *you of* Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem, and King Jehoshaphat: This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not fear or be dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours but God’s.’ ¹⁶ Tomorrow, go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the valley in front of the wilderness of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You *need* not fight in this *battle*; take your position, stand and watch the salvation of the Lord in your behalf, Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow, go out to face them, **for the Lord is with you.**”

***What do you notice about God in His answer to the Israelites?**

-God heard their cry; He saw their need; He was attentive to their plight, worry, fear. He cares!

-God answered their prayer in **His** timing; though there was urgency, God chose when and where to answer their prayers. We will wait upon the Lord. He already knows when/where.

-God didn't say to be passive and just hope it all works out; God told them to get ready, to show up, go out to face them: **Vs. 16** "Go down against them" - Take your position, Stand, and then watch the salvation of the Lord on your behalf. -In faith, we show up, armed, & ready to engage

-God said that He will be them; **His presence IS His power.** He is enough. He is sufficient against any foe, any worry, any doubt, any lie, any attack, any enemy, and against all fear.

-God required both FAITH and ACTION in His plan to defeat their enemy and to show the Israelites again Who is their God. **Vs. 22:** When they began singing and praising, then the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon.

4. There is power in praise and worship. Our worship is a declaration of what is true; WAR against our flesh, our doubt, our sin, and the watching enemy who wants to destroy us.

-Notice Jehoshaphat's response to God's gracious response:

Vs. 18: Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. ¹⁹ The Levites, from the sons of the Kohathites and from the sons of the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel, with a very loud voice. =their worship out of incredible gratitude/thankfulness for the Lord's heart of rescue for them; for God's heart to save them, love them, to listen to them.

***Worship reorients our hearts from the painful and overwhelming circumstances in our lives to the greatness of God over the whole universe. HE is just bigger; greater; worthy...**

****Like Joshua and those who marched around Jericho with the priests and worship leaders out front, these Levites were sent ahead to lead the army with worship & praise:**

Vs. 21: When he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who sang to the Lord and those who praised Him in holy attire, as they went out before the army and said, "Give thanks to the Lord, for His faithfulness is everlasting." ²² When they began singing and praising, then the Lord set ambushes against the sons of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; so they were struck down.

5. When God acts for His glory and our good (either in blessings or loss), the appropriate response is *always* worship. Thankfulness. And JOY!

Vs. 26: Then on the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for they blessed the Lord there. Therefore they have named that place "The Valley of Beracah" until today. ²⁷ Every man of Judah and Jerusalem returned, with Jehoshaphat at their head,

returning to Jerusalem **with joy**, for the Lord had helped them to rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸ They came to Jerusalem with harps, lyres, and trumpets, to the house of the Lord. ²⁹ And the dread of God was on all the kingdoms of the lands when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. ³⁰ So the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God gave him rest on all sides.

***What if God didn't answer the Israelites in this way?** What if they were supposed to be overrun by the enemy (Canaanites -Joshua ch. 7; Philistines -1 Sam. 4; Moabites; Edomites; Ammonites; Midianites; Arameans.... **Would God be any less loving, powerful, or good? God still have their best interest at heart?? What happens when God's answer is not what we expected??**

*Shadrach, Meshack, Abednego, Fiery furnace: -Daniel 3:16-18 "Shadrach, Meshach and Abednego replied to him, "King Nebuchadnezzar, we do not need to defend ourselves before you in this matter. ¹⁷ If we are thrown into the blazing furnace, the God we serve is able to deliver us from it, and he will deliver us^[a] from Your Majesty's hand. ¹⁸ But even if he does not, we want you to know, Your Majesty, that we will not serve your gods or worship the image of gold you have set up."

God reminds throughout All of Scripture that **God always acts for God's glory, Name, & Renown.** The gospel: Your salvation. His rescue of your life =for His glory & your good!
=our lives, our needs, our problems, our challenges in this life are all simply means to allow God to show **His glory** and **power** *to our hearts* and to draw us into deeper dependence on Him (in all ways) helping us grow daily in Christlikeness.

-**What is your heart posture in trusting God? In risking much for God? What do you expect from God? What are you asking for God? What do you want God to do for Himself in your life and circumstances??**

Vs. 12: For we are powerless before this great multitude that is coming against us; **nor do we know what to do, BUT OUR EYES ARE ON YOU!** Fearful of what's next? The economy? Your finances? Your Job? Your future?

- **Our HOPE is in Jesus first;** Our life and our *everything* belong to Jesus; *therefore*, our hope and our future are secure *in* Jesus. **How does this reality shape your trust? Risk?**

APPLICATION

1 -**PRAY!** Trust God with what's next.

2 -**Commitment Card: Financial** 3yr commitment ABOVE your tithes/offerings

3. When the worship begins, **step out**, and place it in the receptacle boxes as an act of worship

*What will you do with this moment? How will you/your family lead us in this moment?

4 -Special Gift (one time gift?) **"Big GIVE Sunday" NOV 8th**

COMMUNITY GROUP QUESTIONS

1. Jehoshaphat was genuinely afraid when he heard that a massive army was approaching Judah (vv. 1–3). **What are some ways fear can cause us to respond poorly to difficult circumstances, and what do you learn from Jehoshaphat's decision to seek the Lord first?**
2. Read Jehoshaphat's prayer in verses 5–12. **What does his prayer teach us about how we should pray when we are facing something that feels overwhelming? Which attributes of God does Jehoshaphat deliberately remember?**
3. Verse 12 says, **“We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on You.”** What would it practically look like for you to live that sentence out in a situation you are currently facing?
4. In verses 15–17, God tells Judah, **“The battle is not yours but God's.”** What is the difference between trusting God to fight our battles and using God's sovereignty as an excuse for passivity or disobedience?
5. Judah worshiped God **before** they saw the victory (vv. 18–22). **Why is worship in the middle of uncertainty an expression of faith? What makes it difficult for us to worship when we don't yet know how our circumstances will turn out?**
6. The people returned to Jerusalem with joy and thanksgiving after witnessing God's deliverance (vv. 27–28). **What are some ways we can intentionally remember and celebrate God's faithfulness so that past answers to prayer strengthen our faith in future trials?**
7. Looking at the entire passage, from fear (v. 3) to prayer (vv. 5–12), dependence (v. 12), worship (vv. 18–22), victory (vv. 23–24), and rest (v. 30), **where do you see yourself in that progression right now, and what is God inviting you to trust Him with?**