**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Praise Your Way to Victory |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | 2 Chronicles 20:1-26 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #2320 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. There had been a mighty revival under King Jehoshaphat, but there was an enemy that came against him.
   2. When an enemy comes against us, it does not mean that God has forsaken us or that God is not with us.
      1. The enemy may come against us because God is with us.
      2. When God opens the windows of Heaven to bless us, the devil will open the doors of Hell to blast us.
   3. We will know trouble if we serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
      1. When that trouble comes, it will draw us closer to Him.
         1. We can turn praise into victory.
   4. In today’s message, we will look at what happened to King Jehoshaphat so long ago.
      1. This is not history; this is devotional literature.
         1. The Bible says, “*All these things happened to them for examples to us*.”
            1. 1 Corinthians 10:11
      2. If you’re not currently going through problems, then just wait a while.
2. he encountered a problem
   1. 2 Chronicles 20:1-2
   2. Problems are blessings in disguise.
      1. James 1:2
         1. This can be a very hard thing to do.
         2. Problems come to the children of God.
         3. This verse does not say “if” but “when.”
3. he established his purpose
   1. It is very important that we establish our purpose when a problem comes.
   2. 2 Chronicles 20:3-4
      1. Have you ever set yourself to seek the Lord?
         1. With all of your might and your total being, have you set yourself to seek Him?
   3. King Jehoshaphat’s first thought was not his last resort.
      1. He did not turn to the Lord after he had tried everything else, like so many of us do.
   4. The very first thing King Jehoshaphat did when trouble came was to set himself to seek the Lord.
      1. That is what Jesus told us to do.
         1. Matthew 6:33
   5. A lot of people want to be counselors, and some of us think of ourselves as counselors.
      1. A counselor may do a bad job if he solves a problem for the individual that he is counseling.
         1. That problem may be God’s way to bring that individual to the Lord.
      2. Rather than trying to solve his or her problem, the best thing we could ever do is to encourage that individual to seek the Lord.
   6. When a problem comes, that’s an opportunity to seek God in time of trouble.
      1. Hebrews 4:16
         1. We have times of need.
         2. We can come boldly to the Lord, like Jehoshaphat did, and establish our purpose to seek Him.
4. he examined his past
   1. When we come into a problem, look back and see what God has done for you in the past.
      1. That is what King Jehoshaphat did.
   2. 2 Chronicles 20:5-7
      1. There is nothing and no one that can stand against the Lord.
      2. The Lord had given them the land.
      3. The Lord had put them there.
      4. The Lord had solved their problems in the past.
   3. When a problem comes, we need to seek the Lord and then turn around and think of what God has already done for us.
      1. God has been faithful.
      2. See the hand of God as He has moved in the past.
   4. What God has done, He will do because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
      1. Hebrews 13:8
   5. God did not save us to abandon us.
5. he embraced a promise
   1. Find a promise in the Word of God.
   2. 2 Chronicles 20:8-11
      1. King Jehoshaphat told God the following:
         1. That this was the land, the Promised Land, that God had given them (the children of Israel).
         2. That God had brought them there.
         3. That the children of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir were trying to take away what God had given them.
         4. That these people were trying to take away the promise God had given to the children of Israel.
   3. We are not going to embarrass God by standing on His promises.
   4. When trouble comes, do like King Jehoshaphat did:
      1. Set yourself to seek the Lord.
      2. Look back in your past and see what God has done, how God has brought you thus far.
      3. Then, find a promise in the Word of God and stand on it.
   5. Hebrews 13:5-6
      1. In verse 5, “conversation” means “behavior.”
      2. These are promises in the Word of God.
         1. They are great promises.
         2. They are not mottos to be hung on the wall.
         3. They are checks to be carried to the bank and cashed.
      3. We can stand on the Word of God.
   6. Satan wants to drive us out of the land of victory.
      1. He wants to keep us from possessing the land that God has given to us, our spiritual Canaan.
      2. We do not have to let him do it.
         1. When problems come and they originate from the devil, we can boldly say that the Lord is our helper, and we will not fear what men shall do to us.
            1. Hebrews 13:6
         2. If we are saved, then we can tell Satan that we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
            1. We are His purchased possession, and our sins are under His blood.
            2. Satan has no right or authority in our lives.
            3. Some may say that this is like praying to the devil.

We are not praying to a cat when we say, “Scat.”

1. he exposed his powerlessness
   1. King Jehoshaphat did not strut, nor was he cocky.
   2. 2 Chronicles 20:12-13
      1. They did not have any strength.
      2. They did not know what to do.
      3. They took their little children, and they looked up to God and said that their eyes were on Him.
         1. No matter what was done to them, their eyes were upon God.
         2. They were trusting in God and God alone.
         3. Their eyes were not on themselves.
         4. Their eyes were not on their enemies.
         5. Their eyes were not on their circumstances.
         6. Their eyes were upon the Lord.
2. he enlisted his protection
   1. 2 Chronicles 20:14-17
   2. King Jehoshaphat got a promise from God.
      1. How wonderful it is when the Holy Spirit of God takes a promise from the Word of God and makes it real to us.
   3. The battle is not ours; it is God’s battle.
   4. We don’t have to pray for victory; we pray from victory.
      1. God has already won the victory.
   5. Our victory does not depend upon our ability.
      1. That is not our responsibility.
      2. It is our response to God’s ability, which is our greatest ability.
   6. We just simply put our eyes on the Lord.
3. he engaged his preparation
   1. 2 Chronicles 20:18-19
   2. King Jehoshaphat got ready to praise the Lord.
      1. He fell on his face.
   3. Nothing will prepare us for the battle like worship.
      1. The person who can kneel before God can stand before any problem.
   4. Worship comes before either work or warfare.
      1. Many times, we just want to get at it without worshipping God.
         1. We forget worship, and think we can keep on doing what we are doing.
4. he expressed his praise
   1. 2 Chronicles 20:20-24
      1. The armies got so confused that they turned on one another when God’s people began to praise.
   2. The battle was the Lord’s, but God said that they were going to have a part.
      1. Jehoshaphat’s part was to praise the Lord.
      2. God was not going to do one thing until they praised.
         1. Are you willing to praise God in the midst of your problems?
         2. Are you willing to praise God in the face of your enemy when you do not have anything but the promise of God?
   3. Our lack of praise is really unbelief.
      1. The Bible teaches that when we praise the Lord, we are expressing our faith in God.
   4. Prayer and praise go together.
      1. Colossians 4:2
      2. Prayer and praise are the two wings of spiritual power.
         1. Prayer infuses us with the energy of God.
         2. Praise confuses the enemies of God.
   5. The devil is allergic to praise.
      1. If the problem is because of your sin, then repent.
      2. But if the problem is obviously an attack from the enemy, then begin to praise God.
   6. When we praise God, God sends confusion into the camp of the enemy.
      1. The devil is confused by praise.
5. he enjoyed his provisions
   1. 2 Chronicles 20:25-26
      1. The battle was God’s.
      2. Confusion came into the camp of the enemy.
      3. They loaded themselves down with silver, gold, and jewels.
   2. If the devil attacks you, then praise God.
      1. We will find out that the devil is just going to be God’s messenger to bring us riches.
      2. God will make Satan our servant when we begin to praise the Lord in the midst of great difficulty.
6. CONCLUSION
   1. Isaiah 54:17
   2. When we praise the Lord and take a promise of God and stand upon it, then God moves in.
   3. There are ten things to remember if you have a problem:
      1. Learn to see all satanic opposition as an opportunity to be blessed.
      2. Seek the face of God before you take any action whatsoever.
      3. Remind yourself of those times when God has already been faithful to you.
      4. Go to the Word of God and look for a promise to stand on.
      5. Let the Holy Spirit of God make that promise a burning reality in your heart.
      6. Refuse any confidence in the flesh; none whatsoever.
      7. Give yourself to praise and to worship.
      8. Begin to praise the Lord in the face of that opposition.
      9. Expect God to send confusion to the enemy.
      10. Get ready for a blessing.
   4. If you are not a child of God, then the devil may not oppose you at all.
   5. If someone has never met the devil, then it is because that person and the devil are traveling in the same direction.
      1. If you turn around, then you will have a head-on collision with him.
   6. Would you rather be in collusion with the devil or in collision with the devil?
   7. Do you want to know that you are saved, that you are Heaven-born and that you are Heaven-bound?
      1. You can know it by receiving Jesus Christ.
      2. God loves you.
      3. Jesus died for you.
      4. Your sin has been paid for.
   8. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   9. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16