

SERMON OUTLINE

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

- a) There had been a mighty revival under King Jehoshaphat, but there was an enemy that came against him.
- b) When an enemy comes against us, it does not mean that God has forsaken us or that God is not with us.
 - i) The enemy may come against us because God is with us.
 - ii) When God opens the windows of Heaven to bless us, the devil will open the doors of Hell to blast us.
- c) We will know trouble if we serve the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - i) When that trouble comes, it will draw us closer to Him.
 - (1) We can turn praise into victory.
- d) In today's message, we will look at what happened to King Jehoshaphat so long ago.
 - i) This is not history; this is devotional literature.
 - (1) The Bible says, "*All these things happened to them for examples to us.*"
 - (a) 1 Corinthians 10:11
 - ii) If you're not currently going through problems, then just wait a while.

2) HE ENCOUNTERED A PROBLEM

- a) 2 Chronicles 20:1-2
- b) Problems are blessings in disguise.
 - i) 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

- a) It is very important that we establish our purpose when a problem comes.
- b) 2 Chronicles 20:3-4
 - i) 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?
- c) King Jehoshaphat's first thought was not his last resort.
 - i) He did not turn to the Lord after he had tried everything else, like so many of us do.
- d) The very first thing King Jehoshaphat did when trouble came was to set himself to seek the Lord.
 - i) That is what Jesus told us to do.
 - (1) Matthew 6:33
- e) A lot of people want to be counselors, and some of us think of ourselves as counselors.
 - i) 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.

- ii) 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.
 - f) When a problem comes, that's an opportunity to seek God in time of trouble.
 - i) 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
- a) When we come into a problem, look back and see what God has done for you in the past.
 - i) That is what King Jehoshaphat did.
 - b) 2 Chronicles 20:5-7
 - i) There is nothing and no one that can stand against the Lord.
 - ii) The Lord had given them the land.
 - iii) The Lord had put them there.
 - iv) The Lord had solved their problems in the past.
 - c) When a problem comes, we need to seek the Lord and then turn around and think of what God has already done for us.
 - i) God has been faithful.
 - ii) See the hand of God as He has moved in the past.
 - d) What God has done, He will do because Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever.
 - i) Hebrews 13:8
 - e) God did not save us to abandon us.
- 5) HE EMBRACED A PROMISE
- a) Find a promise in the Word of God.
 - b) 2 Chronicles 20:8-11
 - i) 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.
 - c) We are not going to embarrass God by standing on His promises.
 - d) When trouble comes, do like King Jehoshaphat did:
 - i) Set yourself to seek the Lord.
 - ii) Look back in your past and see what God has done, how God has brought you thus far.
 - iii) Then, find a promise in the Word of God and stand on it.
 - e) Hebrews 13:5-6

- i) In verse 5, “conversation” means “behavior.”
- ii) 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.
- iii) We can stand on the Word of God.
- f) Satan wants to drive us out of the land of victory.
 - i) He wants to keep us from possessing the land that God has given to us, our spiritual Canaan.
 - ii) 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.
 - (a) Hebrews 13:6
 - (2) If we are saved, then we can tell Satan that we belong to the Lord Jesus Christ.
 - (a) We are His purchased possession, and our sins are under His blood.
 - (b) Satan has no right or authority in our lives.
 - (c) Some may say that this is like praying to the devil.
 - (i) We are not praying to a cat when we say, “Scat.”

6) HE EXPOSED HIS POWERLESSNESS

- a) King Jehoshaphat did not strut, nor was he cocky.
- b) 2 Chronicles 20:12-13
 - i) They did not have any strength.
 - ii) They did not know what to do.
 - iii) 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.

7) HE ENLISTED HIS PROTECTION

- a) 2 Chronicles 20:14-17
- b) King Jehoshaphat got a promise from God.
 - i) How wonderful it is when the Holy Spirit of God takes a promise from the Word of God and makes it real to us.
- c) The battle is not ours; it is God’s battle.
- d) We don’t have to pray for victory; we pray from victory.
 - i) God has already won the victory.
- e) Our victory does not depend upon our ability.

- i) That is not our responsibility.
- ii) It is our response to God's ability, which is our greatest ability.
- f) We just simply put our eyes on the Lord.

8) HE ENGAGED HIS PREPARATION

- a) 2 Chronicles 20:18-19
- b) King Jehoshaphat got ready to praise the Lord.
 - i) He fell on his face.
- c) Nothing will prepare us for the battle like worship.
 - i) The person who can kneel before God can stand before any problem.
- d) Worship comes before either work or warfare.
 - i) 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.

9) HE EXPRESSED HIS PRAISE

- a) 2 Chronicles 20:20-24
 - i) The armies got so confused that they turned on one another when God's people began to praise.
- b) The battle was the Lord's, but God said that they were going to have a part.
 - i) Jehoshaphat's part was to praise the Lord.
 - ii) 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?
- c) Our lack of praise is really unbelief.
 - i) The Bible teaches that when we praise the Lord, we are expressing our faith in God.
- d) Prayer and praise go together.
 - i) Colossians 4:2
 - ii) 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.
- e) The devil is allergic to praise.
 - i) If the problem is because of your sin, then repent.
 - ii) But if the problem is obviously an attack from the enemy, then begin to praise God.
- f) When we praise God, God sends confusion into the camp of the enemy.
 - i) The devil is confused by praise.

10) HE ENJOYED HIS PROVISIONS

- a) 2 Chronicles 20:25-26
 - i) The battle was God's.
 - ii) Confusion came into the camp of the enemy.
 - iii) They loaded themselves down with silver, gold, and jewels.

- b) If the devil attacks you, then praise God.
 - i) We will find out that the devil is just going to be God's messenger to bring us riches.
 - ii) God will make Satan our servant when we begin to praise the Lord in the midst of great difficulty.

11) CONCLUSION

- a) Isaiah 54:17
- b) When we praise the Lord and take a promise of God and stand upon it, then God moves in.
- c) There are ten things to remember if you have a problem:
 - i) Learn to see all satanic opposition as an opportunity to be blessed.
 - ii) Seek the face of God before you take any action whatsoever.
 - iii) Remind yourself of those times when God has already been faithful to you.
 - iv) Go to the Word of God and look for a promise to stand on.
 - v) Let the Holy Spirit of God make that promise a burning reality in your heart.
 - vi) Refuse any confidence in the flesh; none whatsoever.
 - vii) Give yourself to praise and to worship.
 - viii) Begin to praise the Lord in the face of that opposition.
 - ix) Expect God to send confusion to the enemy.
 - x) Get ready for a blessing.
- d) If you are not a child of God, then the devil may not oppose you at all.
- e) If someone has never met the devil, then it is because that person and the devil are traveling in the same direction.
 - i) If you turn around, then you will have a head-on collision with him.
- f) Would you rather be in collusion with the devil or in collision with the devil?
- g) Do you want to know that you are saved, that you are Heaven-born and that you are Heaven-bound?
 - i) You can know it by receiving Jesus Christ.
 - ii) God loves you.
 - iii) Jesus died for you.
 - iv) Your sin has been paid for.
- h) Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
- i) 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.
 - i) Romans 3:23
 - ii) Romans 10:9-10
 - iii) Romans 10:13
 - iv) Acts 16:31
 - v) John 3:16