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September 27, 2026

THE CHRONICLES SERIES #4 • SERMON NOTES

Seek God First in Every Crisis

Pastor Mike • October 18, 2026 • Triumph Church of Vicksburg

Bible Texts: 2 Chronicles 20:1–30; 1 Corinthians 14:29; 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21

"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you." — 2 Chronicles 20:12

During the Cuban Missile Crisis, President Kennedy faced decisions of enormous consequence. Pastor Mike used that moment to introduce an experience we all know: a crisis that leaves us asking, "What do I do now?" In 2 Chronicles 20[i], King Jehoshaphat receives frightening news of an approaching enemy alliance. He is afraid, but fear does not decide his next step. His response gives us a faithful pattern for difficult days.

1. Seek God First

Jehoshaphat does not pretend the danger is small or that he is fearless. He deliberately turns to the Lord, calls Judah to fast, and gathers the people to pray (vv. 3–4)[ii]. Prayer is his first response, not his last resort. This does not mean abandoning wise counsel or practical action; it means placing every decision under God's wisdom. In his prayer (vv. 5–12)[iii], Jehoshaphat remembers who God is, recalls what God has already done, and admits his own helplessness. His words, "Our eyes are on you," teach us to face our limits without losing hope. God's strength is greater than the resources we can see.

Reflection: What crisis am I trying to manage before bringing it to God?

Notes: _____

2. Listen for God's Direction

After praying, the people wait to hear from the Lord. The Spirit of God speaks through Jahaziel, who tells Judah not to be afraid: the battle belongs to God (vv. 14–17[iv]). Pastor Mike encouraged believers to make room for listening, not merely speaking. God guides us through Scripture, the wise counsel of trusted Christians, and, as the sermon teaches, spiritual gifts such as prophecy. Yet no claimed message should be accepted uncritically. Every word must be tested against Scripture and weighed carefully (1 Corinthians 14:29[v]; 1 Thessalonians 5:19–21[vi]). Listening requires patience, humility, and discernment.

Reflection: Am I making space to hear God and testing guidance by His Word?

Notes: _____

3. Move Forward in Faith

The next morning, Jehoshaphat calls the people to trust the Lord and His message (v. 20[vii]). Then he does something unexpected: he places singers before the soldiers. They praise God's steadfast love as they advance toward a genuine threat (v. 21[viii]). This is more than an inspiring song. It is an act of obedience that publicly declares where Judah's confidence rests. Faith does not require certainty about every detail of tomorrow. It means taking the next faithful step because God can be trusted today.

Reflection: What obedient step can I take while the outcome remains uncertain?

Notes: _____

4. Worship Before the Victory

As Judah begins to praise, the Lord brings confusion among its enemies; the threatening armies destroy one another (vv. 22–24[ix]). The people return with joy and thanksgiving. Pastor Mike emphasized that worship reveals what controls our hearts. If security, approval, or success occupies the center, those things will govern our peace. Worship restores our attention to God's character and faithfulness. It is not a technique that guarantees every problem disappears. Sometimes God delivers us from trouble; sometimes He walks with us through it. Either way, we can entrust the outcome to Him.

Reflection: What has been occupying the center of my heart more than God?

Notes: _____

Closing Thought

When you do not know what to do, turn your eyes toward the One who does. Pray first, listen carefully, obey in faith, and worship with confidence in God's presence. Pastor Mike closed by inviting anyone who has not trusted Jesus Christ to repent

and surrender to Him. Our deepest hope is not merely that a crisis will pass, but that through Christ we belong to the faithful God who will never abandon us.

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[i] After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites,[a] came against Jehoshaphat for battle. 2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom,[b] from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi). 3 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

[ii] 3 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4 And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.

[iii] 5 And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court, 6 and said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that no one is able to withstand you. 7 Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? 8 And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, 9 ‘If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment,[a] or pestilence, 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 affliction, and you will hear and save.’ 10 And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— 11 behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. 12 O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

[iv] 14 And the Spirit of the Lord came[a] upon Jahaziel the son of Zechariah, son of Benaiah, son of Jeiel, son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, in the midst of the assembly. 15 And he said, “Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, ‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, 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. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. 17 You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.”

[v] **1 Corinthians 14:29 English Standard Version**
29 Let two or three prophets speak and let the others weigh what is said.

[vi] **1 Thessalonians 5:19-21 English Standard Version**
19 Do not quench the Spirit. 20 Do not despise prophecies, 21 but test everything; hold fast what is good.

[vii] **2 Chronicles 20:20 English Standard Version**
20 And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Hear me, Judah, and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed.”

[viii] **2 Chronicles 20:21 English Standard Version**
21 And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say,
“Give thanks to the Lord,
for his steadfast love endures forever.”

[ix] **2 Chronicles 20:22-24 English Standard Version**

22 And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed. 23 For the men of Ammon and Moab rose against the inhabitants of Mount Seir, devoting them to destruction, and when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they all helped to destroy one another.

The Lord Delivers Judah

24 When Judah came to the watchtower of the wilderness, they looked toward the horde, and behold, there[a] were dead bodies lying on the ground; none had escaped.