

FAMILY DEVOTIONS

A weekly study to strengthen families



When Fight or Flight Are Both Bad Options

MESSAGE BY BRO. JOHNATHAN NAZARIAN

II CHRONICLES 20:1-24 Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah... 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... 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."... 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.

Jehoshaphat, King of Judah, found himself in an impossible situation when was presented with the news that three hostile kings were on his doorstep, arrayed for war. Though fear initially gripped him, he quickly moved from fear to faith. He sought the Lord, put his trust in Him, and saw the Lord bring a great victory to the nation of Judah. Through this account, we can identify five things Jehoshaphat did which brought him and the nation through an insurmountable trial and positioned them to see the deliverance of the Lord.

First, Jehoshaphat **RECOGNIZED** his inability to win the battle and that God alone could deliver them. He acknowledged God and sought His face (verses 3-4). He **REMEMBERED** the mighty works of God and all the promises He had made to His people (verses 5-11). He **RELINQUISHED** control of the situation to God, admitting that he did not know what to do, but that his trust was in God (verse 12). He **RELEASED** God to do whatever it was that He had planned to do - for after all, the battle belonged to Him alone (verses 13-17). He and all the people of Judah **REJOICED** in advance of the victory. They praised God for the promised victory before ever seeing it, and, only then, did they see the Lord work a mighty miracle (verses 18-22).

Application

When faced with trouble, our inclination is often to do one of two things: fight or flight. Jehoshaphat was instructed to do neither but, rather, to "stand and see the salvation of the Lord." We see in this story that seeking the face of God and receiving instruction from Him is of paramount importance in times of turmoil. Are you going through a trial? Is fear on the verge of overwhelming you? Are you faced with impossible odds? Should you fight it or run away? Both may be bad options. Seek the Lord, trust Him, remember the promises of God, release the situation into His hands, praise Him in advance, and He will see you through!

Discussion

1. Which of Jehoshaphat's five steps is most often the most difficult for you? (Recognize, Remember, Relinquish, Release, Rejoice)
2. What is more difficult for you: doing the seemingly ridiculous (like marching around a city wall) or doing nothing at all (like standing and watching three armies approach for battle)?
3. I Peter 5:7 says to cast your cares upon the Lord, for He cares for you. Why is it so difficult to release our cares to the Lord and allow Him to fight our battles?

Prayer Focus

Pray that we would continue to move from fear to faith.

Pray that we would acknowledge God in all our ways and be quick to seek His face in times of trouble.

Pray the promises of God. Remind God of what He has declared.

Pray for a spirit of worship and praise to be in our mouths.