

Defining Moments

Turning Fields of Battles into Fields of Blessings!

2 Chronicles 20

Today we are continuing our series, “Defining Moments”

I’ve titled today’s message, “Turning Fields of Battle into Fields of Blessings!”

Have you ever noticed that every time you begin really desiring to walk with God it seems like something bad happens?

All of us face battles...

It may be BATTLES in our MARRIAGE...

... BATTLES in our HOME...

... BATTLES in our WORK...

... BATTLES in our FINANCES...

... BATTLES with our HEALTH...

I want you to know today that the Lord is ready and able to turn your FIELDS OF BATTLE INTO FIELDS OF BLESSING!!!

At the end of our story we are going to be looking at today we read...

2 Chronicles 20:26 (ESV) — On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Beracah, for there they blessed the LORD. Therefore the name of that place has been called the Valley of Beracah to this day.

The word “Beracah” means BLESSING!

Today we are going to meet a man who was a good person overall, but struggled with which side of the fence he wanted to be on...

He wanted to follow the Lord, but also wanted to be friends with ungodly people...

After being friends with Ahab, one of the most evil king in the history of Israel, and almost dying, Jehoshaphat returned home...

Upon his return he was confronted by a prophet who told him to quit befriending evil and fully commit himself to the Lord!

And that is exactly what he did!

He not only dedicated himself fully to following the Lord, but he dedicated his entire kingdom to following the Lord!

Everything was going great until he received news of an invading army...

2 Chronicles 20:1–2 (ESV) — 1 After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. 2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar” (that is, Engedi).

It was HERE that Jehoshaphat came face to face with his DEFINING MOMENT

What are Defining Moments?

ONE THING

Defining Moments are those FAITH MOMENTS that create a SPIRITUAL MOMENTUM to unlock a SUPERNATURAL MOVEMENT of God.

- ***The World is a Battlefield***

1 John 5:19 (ESV) — We know that we are from God, and the whole world lies in the power of the evil one.

1 John 3:8 (ESV) — ... The reason the Son of God appeared was to destroy the works of the devil.

- ***Everyone seeking the Lord will be attacked***

2 Timothy 3:12 (ESV) — Indeed, all who desire to live a godly life in Christ Jesus will be persecuted

- ***Every field of battle can become a field of blessing***

2 Corinthians 10:3–4 (NIV) — For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does. The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.

- ***Every battle trains us for greater blessings***

Psalm 18:39 (ESV) — For you equipped me with strength for the battle; you made those who rise against me sink under me.

- ***Every current blessing came through a previous battle***

1. TAKE your BATTLE to the Lord!

2 Chronicles 20:3–4 (ESV) — Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. And Judah assembled to seek help from the LORD; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

Notice what Jehoshaphat did FIRST!!!

He went FIRST to the Lord

Matthew 6:33 (ESV) — 33 But seek first the kingdom of God and his righteousness, and all these things will be added to you.

It's OK to talk to others AFTER you have gone to the Lord, BUT go to the Lord FIRST!

Too many believers are wallowing in ...

- ***Anxiety***
- ***Worry***
- ***Self-pity***
- ***Doubt***

All because they won't go to God FIRST!

Or if they do pray, they don't really believe He will answer...

Jeremiah 33:3 (ESV) — Call to me and I will answer you, and will tell you great and hidden things that you have not known.

Let me show you how to pray those anxieties away...

Philippians 4:6–7 (ESV) — Do not be anxious about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus.

1. TAKE your BATTLE to the Lord!

2. TURN your FOCUS towards the Lord!

2 Chronicles 20:12 (ESV) — 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.”

What does it mean to set our eyes on the Lord?

It means that our focus shifts...

We shift from the consuming focus of our BATTLE to focusing on the Lord...

Hebrews 12:2 (NIV84) — Let us fix our eyes on Jesus, the author and perfecter of our faith, who for the joy set before him endured the cross, scorning its shame, and sat down at the right hand of the throne of God.

1. TAKE your BATTLE to the Lord!

2. TURN your FOCUS towards the Lord!

3. TRUST the WORD from the Lord!

After their prayer they waited for the Lord to respond...

A prophet rose up and gave a word from the Lord...

2 Chronicles 20:15, 17 (ESV) —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... 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.”

What was Jehoshaphat’s response to this word?

2 Chronicles 20:18 (ESV) — Then Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the LORD, worshipping the LORD.

Fifteen times in the New Testament we are told, BY JESUS, one important truth...

“Anyone with ears to hear must hear!”

Revelation 2:7a (ESV) — He who has an ear, let him hear what the Spirit says to the churches ...

Listen and wait upon the Lord to speak!

1. TAKE your BATTLE to the Lord!

2. TURN your FOCUS towards the Lord!

3. TRUST the WORD from the Lord!

4. TRIUMPH over the ENEMY through the Lord!

2 Chronicles 20:20–22 (ESV) — 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.” 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.” 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.

Are you ready to see your BATTLE turn into a BLESSING!

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Defining Moments are those _____ that create a _____ to unlock a _____ of God.

1. _____ your _____ to the Lord!

2. _____ your _____ towards the Lord!

3. _____ the _____ from the Lord!

4. _____ over the _____ through the Lord!

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Crossgates – AM Sermon

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