

Bold Prayer

2 Chronicles 20:1-30

INTRODUCTION

As we seek to become a church full of disciples who make disciples, your elders believe that we must become characterized by:

Bold Prayer—We will expect great things from God.

But how do we do that? How do we pray boldly? Today we're going to talk about a bold prayer offered up by King Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 20; Page 358).

The Crisis (vs. 1-4)

The Prayer (vs. 5-13)

Jehoshaphat offers a BOLD PRAYER that I think it may serve as a model or template for how we might pray today. It may be summed up as follows:

Praise-Pray-Trust-Wait

PRAISE—We begin declaring by faith:

WHO GOD IS

"Lord, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.

WHO WE ARE

"Lord, the God of our ancestors...

WHAT GOD HAS DONE

⁷Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?

HIS PROMISES TO US

⁸They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, ⁹'If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.'

Related text: 2 Chronicles 6:1-7:3

PRAY—Then we humbly present our request:

¹⁰“But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. ¹¹See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. ¹²Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us.

TRUST—We close by boldly declaring our TRUST:

We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

WAIT—Then we wait expectantly, WATCHING to see what He will do, and LISTENING for His voice:

¹³All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord.

Related text: Psalm 5:1-3

The Prophecy (vs. 14-17)

¹⁴Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel... ¹⁵He said: “Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the Lord says to you: ‘Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God’s....Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.’”

The Faith-filled Risk (vs. 20-21)

The Miracle (vs. 22-28)

The Result (vs. 29-30)

Questions for Personal Reflection/Group Discussion

1. What words would you use to describe your prayer life right now?
2. Reflect on the proposed “template” for bold prayer as seen in the prayer of Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20: PRAISE-PRAY-TRUST-WAIT. What aspects do you struggle with the most?
3. What is one prayer need that you wish to pray boldly before the Lord? Consider using the PRAISE-PRAY-TRUST-WAIT model! And as you do think about:
 - a. Who God Is
 - b. Who You are in Christ
 - c. What God Has Done
 - d. What God Has Promised