

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY. NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD, THERE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TODAY.

>> WELCOME TO GOOD NEWS TODAY, THE PROGRAM WHERE YOU WILL ALWAYS FIND GOOD NEWS, NO MATTER WHAT ELSE IS HAPPENING IN THE WORLD.

>> I'M MARK TESKE, YOUR HOST FOR GOOD NEWS TODAY. I WANT TO THANK YOU FOR JOINING US. AND WE'VE GOT A GREAT PROGRAM. WE'RE GOING TO BEGIN WITH OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, AND THAT CONSISTS OF OUR SCRIPTURE READING, BEAUTIFUL SINGING, AND A BRIEF STUDY OF OUR SCRIPTURE. TODAY WE'LL BE LOOKING AT ZECHARIAH 2:4, A PASSAGE WHERE THE PROPHET DESCRIBES A VISION THAT INCLUDES A PHRASE THAT'S WORTHY OF OUR CONTEMPLATION. GET OUT YOUR BIBLES, TURN TO ZECHARIAH 2. I'LL MEET YOU THERE IN JUST A MOMENT. FOLLOWING OUR DEVOTIONAL TIME, TROY SPRADLIN WILL BE REPAIRING OUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT THE PASTOR. JIM DEARMAN WILL JOIN US WITH SOME SOUND WORDS ABOUT LIFE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE. ON THE PASTIME PORCH, JOE GUY WILL SHARE A TRUTH FROM THE TIMELESS TEXT ABOUT DANIEL'S CONVICTION. IN OUR FINAL SEGMENT, WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN: WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SCRUPLE AND A DOCTRINE? WELL, I HOPE YOU HAVE YOUR BIBLES OPENED UP TO ZECHARIAH 2, WHERE WE READ VERSE 4: WHO SAID TO HIM, RUN, SPEAK TO THIS YOUNG MAN, SAYING, JERUSALEM SHALL BE INHABITED AS TOWNS WITHOUT WALLS BECAUSE OF THE MULTITUDE OF MEN AND LIVESTOCK IN IT.

>> (SINGING)

>> THE MINOR PROPHET BOOK OF ZECHARIAH CONTAINS PROPHECY TO JUDAH AT THE END OF THEIR BABYLONIAN CAPTIVITY. AND HERE, WE GO THROUGH A SERIES OF EIGHT VISIONS THAT ZECHARIAH HAS. AND THE VERSE THAT WE'RE LOOKING AT HERE, VERSE 4, IS DESCRIBING A VISION OF JERUSALEM BEING REINHABITED AS THE CAPTIVES RETURN AND BEING SO BLESSED, THEY CAN'T FIT WITHIN THE CITY WALLS. WITH APOLOGIES TO THE CONTEXT OF THIS PASSAGE, THERE'S A PHRASE THERE THAT REALLY CONTAINS A GREAT BIBLICAL TRUTH: THAT PHRASE, RUN, SPEAK TO THE YOUNG MAN. EVEN TAKEN OUT OF ITS CONTEXT, IT'S WORTHY OF OUR CONTEMPLATION. AND THAT WORD, MAN, I'M GOING TO USE THAT GENERICALLY FOR MEN AND WOMEN, BOYS AND GIRLS. RUN, SPEAK TO THE YOUNG MAN. AND WE'RE GOING TO ASK A SERIES OF FOUR QUESTIONS ABOUT THIS. NUMBER ONE, WHY SHOULD WE SPEAK TO THE YOUNG MAN? WELL, WE SPEAK TO THE YOUNG MAN BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE HAVE GREAT ABILITY. IT'S NOT JUST THEIR FUTURE, IT'S THEIR PRESENT. KING JOSIAH WAS ONLY EIGHT YEARS OLD WHEN HE ASCENDED TO THE THRONE; AND THE GREAT REFORMS THAT HE HAD, HE ACCOMPLISHED THOSE AT THE RIPE OLD AGE OF 18. DAVID WAS STILL BUT A BOY WHEN GOLIATH FELL WITH THAT MIGHTY BLOW. AND TIMOTHY WAS A YOUNG MAN WHEN HE WENT ON THE TRAVELS WITH PAUL. IT WAS LATER IN HIS YEARS THAT PAUL CAME BACK TO HIM AND SAID, LET NO ONE DESPISE YOUR YOUTH. TIMOTHY WAS ALREADY AN ACCOMPLISHED PREACHER AT THAT POINT. WHY SPEAK TO THE YOUNG MAN? BECAUSE YOUNG PEOPLE ARE MALLEABLE. IT'S THEIR TIME IN LIFE TO LEARN, TO GROW, TO DEVELOP. AS WE GET OLDER, WE GET SET IN OUR WAYS; BUT A YOUNG PERSON IS LIKE CLAY THAT CAN BE MOLDED AND WORKED AND SHAPED AND FORMED IN GOD'S LIKENESS. AND AS THE AGE GOES UP AND THAT CLAY BECOMES HARDER AND FIRMER, THEY'RE FIRM IN GOD'S WORD, THEY'RE FIRM IN THE LIFE OF CHRISTIANITY.

WHY SPEAK TO THE YOUNG MAN? BECAUSE THAT YOUNG MAN NEEDS THE HELP AND EXPERIENCE OF AGE AND WISDOM, THOUGH HE MAY NOT WANT TO ADMIT IT. I'VE BEEN AMAZED THAT AS MY KIDS HAVE GOTTEN OUT OF THEIR TEENAGE YEARS, MY IQ HAS GONE UP IN THEIR SIGHT. THAT'S TRUE FOR JUST ABOUT ANYONE. AND LASTLY, WHY A YOUNG MAN? WELL, YOU CONVERT AN OLD PERSON, THAT'S A SINGLE UNIT; BUT WHEN YOU CONVERT A YOUNG MAN, YOU'RE CONVERTING AN ENTIRE MULTIPLICATION TABLE. SECOND QUESTION WE CAN ASK OF THIS TEXT, WHY SHOULD I SPEAK? AND THIS GOES ESPECIALLY TO THE PARENTS. WHY SHOULD YOU SPEAK TO YOUR YOUNG PERSON? BECAUSE GOD'S INSTRUCTED YOU TO DO SO, EPHESIANS 6:4. NOW, THAT ADDRESSES THE MEN: FATHERS, PROVOKE NOT YOUR CHILDREN TO WRATH, BUT BRING THEM UP IN THE NURTURE AND ADMISSION OF THE LORD, BUT IT APPLIES TO MOTHERS AS WELL. TOO MANY FATHERS HAVE NEGLECTED THAT RESPONSIBILITY AND TAKE CARE OF THE PHYSICAL THINGS, BUT NEGLECT THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT OF THEIR CHILDREN. THOSE PHYSICAL THINGS WON'T LAST, BUT THE SPIRITUAL THINGS WILL LAST FOREVER. TOO MANY OF OUR PARENTS SPEND ALL THEIR TIME ON THE SECULAR NEEDS, THE SECULAR EDUCATION, THE SECULAR ENTERTAINMENT IN THE CHILDREN'S LIVES, AND THEY'RE SURPRISED WHEN THE RESULT IS A SECULAR, GODLESS CHILD. SUCCESSFUL PARENTS HAVE CHILDREN THAT MAY HAVE HUMBLE JOBS, BUT THEY HAVE FAITHFUL SOULS. WHY SPEAK TO THE YOUNG MAN? BECAUSE THE WORLD IS TRYING TO SPEAK LIES TO HIM. WE ASK THE QUESTION NUMBER THREE, WHY SHOULD I RUN? RUN BECAUSE THE OPPORTUNITIES ARE RUNNING AWAY. IT'S SAID ABOUT RAISING CHILDREN, THE DAYS ARE LONG, BUT THE YEARS ARE SHORT. WHY SHOULD I RUN? GET THERE QUICKLY TO PREVENT PROBLEMS IN LIFE. TOO MANY YOUNG PEOPLE RUIN THEIR LIVES WITH POOR DECISIONS WHILE THEY'RE YOUNG. A SUCCESSFUL BUSINESSMAN WAS WORKING HARD TO GET AHEAD TO PROVIDE FOR HIS FAMILY. HE KEPT HIMSELF BUSY RUNNING FROM ONE MEETING TO THE NEXT. DIDN'T HAVE TIME TO SPEND WITH HIS DAUGHTER. DIDN'T REALIZE UNTIL IT WAS TOO LATE, HE WON THE SALE BUT LOST THE GIRL. FINALLY, WHAT SHOULD I SPEAK? WE SHOULD SPEAK TO THEM ABOUT WHAT GOD TEACHES US. CHRISTIANITY IS MORE THAN JUST A LIST OF THOU SHALTS AND THOU SHALT NOTS. IT'S A GUIDE TO LIVE A BLESSED, ABUNDANT LIFE. WE NEED TO TEACH THEM TO GO FAR ENOUGH TO FIND THE FUN, TO EXPERIENCE THE REAL ROMANCE OF RELIGION. NOBODY IS MORE MISERABLE THAN SOMEONE WHO KNOWS WHAT'S RIGHT, BUT DOESN'T DEVELOP THE CHARACTER TO DO THOSE THINGS. WE SPEAK TO THEM NOT JUST THROUGH OUR WORDS, BUT THROUGH OUR ACTIONS. WE NEED TO GIVE THEM A BASIS FOR BELIEF, A FOUNDATION FOR FAITH. WE NEED TO TEACH THEM THAT GOD EXISTS, THAT SCRIPTURE IS INSPIRED, THAT JESUS IS THE CHRIST, THE SON OF GOD, THE THINGS THAT THEY NEED TO DO IN ORDER TO BE SAVED, AND HOW TO LIVE A GODLY LIFE. THESE ARE THINGS THAT THEY NEED TO DO. IF YOU'RE EXPERIENCED, IF YOU'RE AN OLDER PERSON, YOU NEED TO TEACH YOUNG PEOPLE TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS. MAKE THE GOOD DECISION YOURSELF TO RUN SPEAK TO THE YOUNG MEN AND WOMEN. AND IF YOU'RE YOUNG, MAKE THE GOOD DECISION TO FIND PEOPLE THAT WILL BRING YOU CLOSER TO GOD AND HELP UNDERSTAND HIS WORD. AND THAT'S GOOD NEWS FOR US TODAY. IT'S TIME TO HEAD OVER TO THE WORKSHOP, WHERE TROY SPRADLIN IS GOING TO BE WAITING FOR US. HE'S GOING TO BE REPAIRING YOUR UNDERSTANDING ABOUT WHAT A PASTOR IS.

>> YOU KNOW, I LOVE MINISTRY. SERVING AS A PREACHER OR A MINISTER AND EVEN A MISSIONARY HAS BEEN THE GREATEST BLESSING OF MY LIFE. AND I'M

SO THANKFUL FOR THE MANY OPPORTUNITIES THAT GOD HAS PROVIDED FOR ME TO SERVE IN HIS KINGDOM, AND I WOULDN'T TRADE THIS VOCATION FOR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD. BUT THERE IS ONE THING THAT I DON'T NECESSARILY LIKE ABOUT MINISTRY. I DON'T REALLY LIKE TO BE CALLED PASTOR. AND THERE ARE MANY PEOPLE WHO MISTAKENLY CALL ME PASTOR, AND IT HURTS MY HEART FOR SEVERAL REASONS. NUMBER ONE, BECAUSE IT REMINDS ME OF THE VAST AMOUNT OF RELIGIOUS CONFUSION THAT THERE IS IN THE WORLD. YOU SEE, FOR MANY CENTURIES, THE FALSE TEACHING OF SEVERAL RELIGIOUS GROUPS HAS RESULTED IN THE TERM PASTOR BEING ABUSED SO MUCH THAT PEOPLE NO LONGER KNOW ITS TRUE BIBLICAL MEANING. AND THAT'S BECAUSE THERE ARE THOSE WHO SERVE IN LEADERSHIP POSITIONS IN SOME OF THOSE RELIGIOUS ORGANIZATIONS THAT HAVE ELEVATED THEMSELVES ABOVE EVERYONE ELSE IN THE CHURCH, AND THEY CREATE THIS SEPARATION THAT'S OFTEN CALLED A CLERGY AND A LAITY SYSTEM. YET THE BIBLE MAKES NO SUCH DISTINCTION BETWEEN ANY MEMBER OF THE CHURCH OR PUTTING ONE BEING MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE OTHER. IN FACT, PAUL SAYS IN ROMANS 12:5. SO WE BEING MANY ARE ONE BODY IN CHRIST AND INDIVIDUALLY MEMBERS OF ONE ANOTHER. YOU SEE, PREACHERS WERE NEVER ELEVATED ABOVE THE REST OF THE CONGREGATION IN THE FIRST-CENTURY CHURCH, AND NEITHER SHOULD THEY BE TODAY. NOW, SECONDLY, IT MAKES ME SAD TO BE CALLED PASTOR BECAUSE IT'S AN INDICATION OF ONE'S MISUNDERSTANDING OF SPIRITUAL THINGS AND BIBLICAL PRINCIPLES. NOW, I CERTAINLY DON'T WANT TO EMBARRASS ANYONE WHO UNKNOWINGLY USES THAT TERM TOWARDS ME; BUT I DO WANT TO HELP AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE GET TO HEAVEN, AND THAT REQUIRES CONTINUAL SPIRITUAL GROWTH ACCORDING TO MATTHEW 28:20 AND HEBREWS 5:12, AND THAT INVOLVES LEARNING HOW TO DO BIBLE THINGS IN BIBLE WAYS AND CALLING BIBLE THINGS BY BIBLE NAMES. THE WORD PASTOR HAS A VERY SPECIFIC MEANING IN THE SCRIPTURES. IT ALWAYS REFERS TO A SHEPHERD. AND THE ONLY TIME YOU EVER SEE THAT WORD SHEPHERD APPLIED TO SOMEONE IN CHURCH LEADERSHIP IS IN CONJUNCTION WITH A PLURALITY OF ELDERS, AS WE SEE IN ACTS 14:23 AND 20:28. AND ACCORDING TO 1ST PETER 5:15, THESE MEN ARE ALSO CALLED BISHOPS AND OVERSEERS AND PRESBYTERS, BUT NOT ONCE IN THE WORD OF GOD DO WE SEE A SINGULAR PASTOR OVERSEEING A CONGREGATION. SO FOR ONE MAN TO PRESENT HIMSELF AS THE PASTOR IN CHARGE OF A CONGREGATION IS COMPLETELY FOREIGN TO HOW JESUS SET UP THE CHURCH, BECAUSE THERE IS NO SUCH POSITION. SO IF THE BIBLE NEVER USES SUCH TERMS FOR ELEVATING ONE MAN ABOVE THE REST, THEN MAYBE WE SHOULDN'T USE IT IN OUR VERNACULAR, EITHER. AND THAT IMPLIES THAT THERE'S ALSO NO SUCH THING AS TITLES FOR CHURCH LEADERSHIP, SUCH AS REVEREND OR FATHER OR FRIAR, CURATE, CARDINAL, POPE, OR MONSIGNOR. THIRDLY, LET ME SAY THAT IT MAKES ME SAD TO BE CALLED PASTOR BECAUSE IT TAKES THE FOCUS AWAY FROM THE TRUE PASTORS, THE RIGHTFUL SHEPHERDS OF THE FLOCK, THAT BEING THE ELDERS. YOU SEE, THE BIBLE SAYS THAT THEY HAVE A SPECIAL JOB IN THE CHURCH, AND THAT IS THAT THEY WATCH OUT FOR OUR SOULS AS THOSE WHO MUST GIVE AN ACCOUNT, ACCORDING TO HEBREWS 13:17. I COULD ALSO ADD THAT WHILE I AM QUALIFIED TO BE A PREACHER, I'M NOT QUALIFIED TO BE A PASTOR, BECAUSE AN ELDER MUST HAVE FAITHFUL CHILDREN ACCORDING TO THE REQUIREMENTS FOR ELDERS FOUND IN 1ST TIMOTHY 3:4 AND TITUS 1:6. AND SINCE MY WIFE AND I HAVE NO CHILDREN, WELL, I CANNOT BE AN ELDER. SO WHILE I GREATLY APPRECIATE THE RESPECT THAT SOMEONE INTENDS TOWARDS ME WHEN THEY USE THAT TERM TO ADDRESS ME, I HOPE THAT THIS WILL REPAIR OUR UNDERSTANDING THAT I'M STILL NOT THE PASTOR.

>> TO PREVENT ANY MISUNDERSTANDINGS. LET'S ALL MAKE THE DECISION TO CALL BIBLE THINGS BY BIBLE NAMES. THANKS, TROY. WE'RE ABOUT TO GIVE YOU OUR CONTACT INFORMATION SO YOU CAN SIGN UP FOR OUR FREE BIBLE COURSE OR ASK US A QUESTION. WE LOVE TO HEAR FROM OUR AUDIENCE. IN JUST A MOMENT, JIM DEARMAN WILL BE WITH US.

>> YOU MAY HAVE QUESTIONS OR COMMENTS ABOUT GOOD NEWS TODAY. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. OR IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO RECEIVE FREE BIBLE STUDY MATERIALS, PLEASE CONTACT US. OUR MAILING ADDRESS IS GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. AGAIN, THAT'S GOOD NEWS TODAY, P.O. BOX 206, DUNLAP, TENNESSEE, 37327. YOU MAY PREFER TO E-MAIL US AT GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. THAT'S GOODNEWSTODAYTV@GMAIL.COM. OR CALL US TOLL-FREE AT 1-877-384-7221. THAT'S 1-877-384-7221. WE'D LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU. HEARING FROM OUR AUDIENCE IS ALWAYS GOOD NEWS TO US.

>> THE EASIEST WAY TO ENROLL IN OUR BIBLE COURSE IS ON OUR WEBSITE AT GNTTV.ORG. JUST CLICK WHERE IT SAYS BIBLE COURSE, FILL OUT THE INFORMATION, AND WE'LL GET YOU STARTED. WHILE YOU'RE THERE, CHECK OUT OUR VIDEOS AND WRITTEN TRANSCRIPTS OF THE PROGRAM. WE'RE LOOKING FORWARD TO JIM DEARMAN WITH SOME SOUND WORDS FOR US ABOUT LIFE'S MOST BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE.

>> CHARLES FROMAN, THE WELL-KNOWN AMERICAN THEATER MANAGER AND PRODUCER, WAS AMONG THOSE WHO PERISHED ON THE LUSITANIA IN 1915. AS HE STOOD ON THE DECK OF THAT SHIP AS IT SANK, HE PARAPHRASED A LINE FROM ONE OF HIS MOST SUCCESSFUL PRODUCTIONS, PETER PAN. FROMAN SAID, WHY FEAR DEATH? IT IS THE MOST BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE THAT LIFE GIVES US. WELL, YOU KNOW, THAT STATEMENT IS ONLY TRUE FOR THOSE WHO DIE AS CHRISTIANS. THE INSPIRED WRITER IN HEBREWS 2:14-15 REMINDS US THAT BECAUSE OF CHRIST'S DEATH, BURIAL, AND RESURRECTION, THOSE WHO ARE IN CHRIST HAVE BEEN DELIVERED FROM THE BONDAGE OF DEATH AND THE FEAR ASSOCIATED WITH IT. READ THOSE VERSES, HEBREWS 2:14-15. THEY SHOULD REASSURE EVERY CHRISTIAN THAT HE HAS NOTHING TO FEAR FROM DEATH. AND THOSE WORDS SHOULD PRODUCE IN THOSE WHO ARE NOT CHRISTIANS A DESIRE TO BECOME SUCH, THAT THEY, TOO, MIGHT BE DELIVERED FROM THE FEAR OF DEATH THROUGH JESUS CHRIST.

>> THANKS FOR THAT, JIM. IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION ABOUT WHETHER YOUR DEATH WILL BE A BEAUTIFUL ADVENTURE OR THE ULTIMATE TRAGEDY, CONTACT US SO THAT WE CAN HELP YOU THROUGH THE BIBLE. MAKE A GOOD DECISION. SEARCH THE BIBLE FOR THE ANSWER. THAT'S WHAT GOOD NEWS TODAY IS ALL ABOUT. HAVE YOU EVER MISSED AN EPISODE OF GOOD NEWS TODAY AND WISH YOU COULD WATCH IT? HERE'S A FEW WAYS YOU CAN DO THAT: THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, FACEBOOK, OR YOUTUBE. YOU CAN ALSO DOWNLOAD THE APP FOR YOUR PHONE OR YOUR TABLET. IF YOU DOWNLOAD THE ROKU, FIRE TV, GOOGLE TV, OR APPLE TV APP, YOU CAN WATCH IT ON YOUR TELEVISION. THE PROGRAM'S THERE EVERY SUNDAY, SO YOU NEVER HAVE TO MISS AN EPISODE. IT'S TIME TO HEAD OVER TO THE PASTIME PORCH, WHERE JOE GUY IS WAITING FOR US. HE'S GOT ANOTHER TRUTH FROM THE TIMELESS TEXT FOR US, AND HE HAS SOME GREAT TEACHING FROM THE BOOK OF DANIEL.

>> HELLO. THANK YOU FOR STOPPING BY. SAY, HAVE YOU EVER HEARD PEOPLE SAY ABOUT A PROBLEM THEY'RE HAVING THAT I'M JUST GOING TO TURN IT OVER TO THE LORD? IT SEEMS LIKE A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK THEY CAN JUST SIT BACK AND LET GOD JUST TAKE CARE OF EVERYTHING OR THAT GOD WILL TAKE CARE OF A PROBLEM THE WAY THAT THEY THINK THAT HE SHOULD. I HAVE A GOOD FRIEND WHO WILL OFTEN SAY VERY WISELY THAT GOD WILL FIGHT YOUR BATTLES FOR YOU, BUT HE EXPECTS YOU TO BE OUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD. SUCH AN EXAMPLE OF THIS TRUTH AS IN 2ND CHRONICLES 20, WHERE THERE IS A STORY OF KING JEHOASHAPHAT. JEHOASHAPHAT WAS ONE OF THE GOOD KINGS OF JUDAH. AND IN 2ND CHRONICLES 20, HE IS FACING A BIG PROBLEM. THE PEOPLE OF MOAB, THE PEOPLE OF AMMON, AND THE PEOPLE OF MOUNT SEIR HAD ALL Banded TOGETHER TO INVADE AND DESTROY JUDAH. SO WHAT DOES JEHOASHAPHAT DO? IN VERSE 3 IT SAYS THAT HE FEARED, AND SET HIMSELF TO SEEK THE LORD. HE PROCLAIMS A FAST AND GATHERS ALL THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH TOGETHER, EVEN THE LITTLE CHILDREN, AND THEY ALL COME TO SEEK THE LORD. IN VERSES 6 THROUGH 12, JEHOASHAPHAT LEADS THE PEOPLE IN PRAYER TO GOD, NOTING HIS POWER AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR THEM IN THE PAST AND HOW THE PEOPLE WERE TRYING TO BE FAITHFUL AND TRYING TO UNDERSTAND THE PROBLEMS THEY'RE FACING, AND THEY RECOMMIT THEIR FAITH IN HIM, KNOWING THAT THEY COULD CRY OUT TO HIM AND HE WOULD HEAR THEM AND SAVE THEM. THEY DIDN'T TELL GOD EXACTLY WHAT THEY THOUGHT HE SHOULD DO; THEY SIMPLY ASKED FOR HIS HELP. IN VERSE 15 COMES GOD'S ANSWER: DO NOT BE AFRAID; FOR THIS BATTLE IS NOT YOURS, BUT THE LORD'S. NOW, A LOT OF PEOPLE WOULD STOP RIGHT THERE AND SAY, SEE? I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING. GOD WILL DO IT ALL FOR ME. BUT WE SEE THAT THAT IS NOT EXACTLY THE CASE. BEGINNING AT VERSE 16, GOD TELLS THE PEOPLE TO GO OUT AND MEET THE OPPOSING ARMIES. HE TELLS THEM THEY WON'T NEED TO FIGHT, BUT THEY MUST GO OUT, GET INTO FORMATION LIKE THEY'RE SUPPOSED TO; THEN, STAND STILL, HE SAYS, AND SEE THE SALVATION OF THE LORD. WHAT HAPPENS? BEGINNING IN VERSE 20 IT SAYS, THE PEOPLE GOT UP EARLY, AND AS JEHOASHAPHAT ENCOURAGED THEM TO BELIEVE THEY WENT OUT SINGING AND FORMED UP ON THE BATTLEFIELD, OUTNUMBERED BY THE ARMIES THEY FACED. WHAT HAPPENED? WELL, GOD CAUSED THE PEOPLE OF AMMON AND MOAB TO TURN ON AND DESTROY THE PEOPLE FROM MOUNT SEIR, AND THEN THE MOABITES AND THE AMMONITES FOUGHT AND DESTROYED EACH OTHER. ALL THE PEOPLE FROM JUDAH FOUND WERE THE DEAD BODIES OF THEIR ENEMIES ALL OVER THE BATTLEFIELD. EVEN THOUGH IT MADE NO SENSE TO GO OUT AGAINST A LARGER ARMY, THE PEOPLE OF JUDAH TRUSTED GOD. THEY DIDN'T SIT BACK BEHIND THE WALLS OF JERUSALEM AND SAY, WE'LL LET GOD TAKE CARE OF IT. THEY SOUGHT GOD, LISTENED TO HIM, AND WERE OBEDIENT TO HIS INSTRUCTIONS. THEY WENT OUT ON THE BATTLEFIELD, AND GOD TOOK CARE OF ALL THE REST. GOD'S TIMELESS TEXT TELLS US THAT HE HAS GIVEN US UNDERSTANDING AND ABILITIES AS WELL AS STRENGTH AND WISDOM THAT HE EXPECTS US TO USE IN TIMES OF TROUBLE. WE, TOO, SHOULD WALK BRAVELY OUT INTO OUR OWN BATTLES, KNOWING THAT HE IS WITH US. I'M JOE GUY. THANKS FOR VISITING.

>> ONE OF THE GREAT TOOLS FOR MAKING GOOD DECISIONS IS TO MAKE THE DECISION BEFORE THE PRESSURE IS ON. THANKS, JOE. AND A GREAT DECISION THAT YOU CAN MAKE IS TO STUDY YOUR BIBLE EVERY DAY. ONE WAY YOU COULD DO THIS IS BY SUBSCRIBING TO THE GOOD NEWS TODAY DAILY DEVOTIONAL TIME PODCAST. THERE'S A NEW EPISODE EVERY MORNING, AND IT BRINGS YOU TO THE

WORD OF GOD. IN JUST A MOMENT, WE'LL GIVE OUR BIBLE QUESTION TO ANTHONY DISMUKE AND TROY SPRADLIN.

>> (SINGING)

>> NOW WE HAVE A BIBLE QUESTION FOR ANTHONY AND TROY: WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SCRUPLE AND A DOCTRINE?

>> TROY, WHAT IS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A SCRUPLE AND A DOCTRINE?

>> OH, WOW, WHAT A QUESTION.

>> THAT'S THE QUESTION THAT WE HAVE HERE BEFORE US TODAY. AND SO LET'S FIRST DEFINE OUR TERMS. WHAT IS A SCRUPLE?

>> WELL, ESSENTIALLY, A SCRUPLE IS AN OPINION. IT'S ALSO HOW SOMEONE INTERPRETS A RULE OR A LAW; AND ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU'RE LOOKING AT THE BIBLE, IT'S HOW SOMEONE MAY COME TO A DECISION OF WHAT IT IS THAT THEY'RE GOING TO DO TO APPLY THAT IN THEIR LIVES.

>> RIGHT. SO A DOUBT OR A HESITATION IN REGARDS TO MORALITY ABOUT A CERTAIN COURSE OF ACTION THAT YOU WANT TO TAKE, WHICH IS BASICALLY, AS YOU SAID, OPINIONATED, RIGHT? AND SO SOMETIMES PEOPLE TRY TO TAKE THOSE THINGS WHICH ARE CONSCIENTIOUS WITH THEIR OWN SELVES AND BIND THEM ON OTHER PEOPLE, RIGHT?

>> AND THERE'S THE KEY WORD WHEN IT COMES TO SCRUPLES, IS BINDING. THAT'S WHAT JESUS DEALT WITH WITH THE PHARISEES.

>> RIGHT. AND SO THAT'S WHAT A SCRUPLE IS. AND DOCTRINE IS THE INSTRUCTION, IT'S A TEACHING. AND SO IN OTHER WORDS, IT COULD BE A COMMANDMENT AS WELL, THAT OF WHICH ONLY GOD IS ABLE TO LAY DOWN, RIGHT?

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> AND SO WHEN WE THINK ABOUT THAT IN RELATION TO THE BIBLE, WHAT COMES TO MIND IS ROMANS 14.

>> AMEN.

>> ROMANS 14, AS PAUL WRITES ABOUT MEAT BEING OFFERED TO IDOLS AND INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE CONFUSED AS TO WHETHER THEY SHOULD PARTAKE IN MEAT. IS IT OKAY, OR SHOULD WE NOT PARTAKE IN MEAT? WHAT IS RIGHT AND WHAT IS WRONG? AND PAUL BASICALLY SAYS, TO EACH HIS OWN. TO EACH HIS OWN. IF YOU WANT TO PARTAKE IN MEAT, IT'S FINE, BECAUSE ONE WHO EATS MEAT KNOWS THAT THAT MEAT THAT'S OFFERED TO IDOLS, THERE IS NO IDOLS, THERE'S ONLY ONE GOD.

>> YEAH. AND HE EVEN EQUATES THAT TO A STRONGER BROTHER AND A WEAKER BROTHER, WHICH INDICATES THAT THERE IS THAT ONE WHO UNDERSTANDS THE DOCTRINE, HAS WORKED THROUGH SOME OF THESE THINGS, AND THE WEAKER

BROTHER WHO IS KIND OF BASING SOME OF IT ON THEIR OPINIONS. AND THEIR OPINION IS NOT NECESSARILY WRONG; IT'S JUST IT'S NOT BASED FULLY IN UNDERSTANDING OF THE DOCTRINE.

>> ONE HUNDRED PERCENT. AND HE ALSO SAYS THAT THIS IS A MATTER OF FAITH. THIS IS A MATTER OF FAITH. AND SO ONE WHO BELIEVES THAT THEY SHOULDN'T BE PARTAKING IN THIS, YOU HAVE TO STICK TO THAT.

>> THAT'S RIGHT.

>> DON'T GO AGAINST YOUR OWN CONSCIENCE, BECAUSE THEN YOU DEFILE YOUR CONSCIENCE, AND IT BECOMES SIN TO YOU WHO DOES SUCH A THING. AND WHEN YOU GET TO CHAPTER 15, VERSE NUMBER 1, HE LETS US KNOW THAT WE OUGHT TO BEAR THE INFIRMITIES OF THE WEAKER BROTHER IN THAT SITUATION. SO WE OUGHT TO TRY TO DO TO DO RIGHT ONE TOWARDS ANOTHER AND NOT CAUSING EACH OTHER TO STUMBLE IF WE CAN; BUT ONE CANNOT BIND SUCH OPINIONATED THINGS UPON ANOTHER.

>> EXACTLY. AND THAT'S THE PROBLEM THAT WE SEE WITH SCRUPLES VERSUS DOCTRINE, IS THAT IT CAUSES A LOT OF DIVISION. AND WHAT HAPPENS A LOT OF TIMES IS IF YOU WIND UP ALWAYS LEANING TOWARDS OR DEFERRING TO THE WEAKER BROTHER WHO TYPICALLY DOESN'T HAVE A GREAT THEOLOGY, YOU'RE ESSENTIALLY MAKING THEM LEADERS OF THE CONGREGATION; AND THEY HAVE NO RIGHT OR THEY MAY NOT EVEN BE QUALIFIED TO BE LEADERS OF THE CONGREGATION, LIKE ELDERS AND LIKE SHEPHERDS. THE KEY - AND THERE'S NO END TO THESE ISSUES, BECAUSE WE KNOW THERE'S ALL KINDS OF WAYS OF LOOKING AT THIS, PEOPLE THINK WHAT'S RIGHT AND WRONG. THE KEY TO THIS IS TEACHING GRACE AND MERCY TO EACH OTHER, NOT LEANING TOWARDS THE MOST LIBERAL OR THE MOST LEGALISTIC, BUT INSTEAD BRINGING IT ALL TO CHRIST.

>> RIGHT. ALWAYS DIRECTED TOWARDS HIM, ALWAYS LOOKING AT HIM. AND SO THAT'S THE SUMMATION OF OUR QUESTION TODAY IS SCRUPLES VERSUS DOCTRINE: SCRUPLES ARE THINGS THAT ARE OPINIONS ON CONSCIENTIOUS THINGS, HANG-UPS, IF YOU WILL; AND THEN THE DOCTRINE IS A TEACHING, IT'S THE COMMANDMENTS OF THE LORD. AND THOSE THINGS ARE THE THINGS THAT ARE BOUND UPON US ALL. THOSE ARE BOUND UPON US ALL. AND OUR SCRUPLES WE CANNOT BIND UPON ONE ANOTHER, BUT WE CAN BIND THEM UPON OURSELVES.

>> AMEN.

>> WELL, WE HOPE THAT WE'VE LED YOU TO THE BIBLE IN YOUR EFFORT TO MAKE GOOD DECISIONS, INTENTIONAL DECISIONS TO HELP THE NEXT GENERATION, DECISIONS TO CALL BIBLE THINGS BY BIBLE NAMES, DECISIONS ABOUT WHERE YOU'RE GOING TO SPEND ETERNITY, MAKING OUR IMPORTANT DECISIONS AHEAD OF TIME, AND UNDERSTANDING THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN GOD'S DECISIONS AND OUR DECISIONS. WE ALWAYS ENCOURAGE YOU TO CHECK EVERYTHING WE TEACH OR ANYBODY TEACHES AGAINST THE WORD OF GOD TO SEE IF THESE THINGS ARE SO, ACTS 17:11. IF YOU NEED TO HEAR OUR PROGRAM AGAIN, YOU CAN DO IT THROUGH OUR WEBSITE, THROUGH OUR APPS, OR

PODCASTS, HAVE TIME TO CHECK THE SCRIPTURES FOR YOURSELF. REMEMBER, WE LOVE YOU, WE'RE PRAYING FOR YOU, AND WE WANT YOU TO MAKE IT TO HEAVEN.

>> SINGING: GOOD NEWS TODAY