

September 3, 2023

THE KING WHO TRUSTED THE LORD'S COUNSEL

Unit 1: Lessons from the Kings of Judah

THE WORD

2 CHRONICLES 20:5-15, 18-22

Connect to My Experience

- *How are you when it comes to handing off responsibility for things that are important to you? Are you a good delegator?*
- *What are some reasons for not wanting to delegate?*
- *Rather than seeing delegation from a negative perspective, how can it be a blessing to those involved and beyond?*

Connect to the Word

Read 2 Chronicles 20:5-15.

Jehoshaphat began his prayer not just with God's proper name, but with the added identifier, "The God of our ancestors" (v. 6).

- *Why do you think he did this? What is the impact of calling to mind who God is and the historical context?*
- *Do you think Jehoshaphat did this for God's sake, for his sake, or for the sake of the people?*
- *What qualifications does God possess for the task that was at hand?*

In verse 7, Jehoshaphat says, "**Our** 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?**" (emphasis added).

- *Read the verse emphasizing the bold words. What is the importance of this emphasis?*
- *According to verses 8-9, how were the people stewards of the land that God gave them as a possession? What did they promise to do when hardship came their way?*
- *Jehoshaphat completed the opening of his prayer. What was the point of his prayer?*

Beginning in verse 10, Jehoshaphat presents the problem at hand.

- *What was the problem facing God's people? If you had been in this situation, how would you have been feeling?*
- *According to the text, whose problem was this? How so?*
- *In what way(s) were they giving their problem over to God?*
- *What kind of example does Jehoshaphat set when he says, "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (v. 12)?*

- *The very next verse tells us that all the men, wives, and children stood there before the Lord. Why is this important?*

Jehoshaphat stops speaking and we get God's response through Jahaziel, a Levite.

- *What encouragement did Jahaziel give to the people?*

Read 2 Chronicles 20:18-22.

Jehoshaphat and the people worshiped God.

- *What pattern do we see repeated here that we saw previously between the king and the people?*
- *What action were the king and the people performing? What, if anything, was achieved on their behalf?*
- *Why is it noteworthy that the people responded in worship prior to God answering their prayer? What does this tell us about the people? Whom or what did they trust?*
- *What does it mean to "have faith"? What might it have meant for the people to "have faith" in these circumstances?*

Certainly, this scenario played itself out much differently than the king and the people feared it might.

- *What weapons did the people use to battle the enemy?*
- *In the face of mighty opposition, what did the people do? What did God do?*

Connect to My Life and the World

- *Is there anything you are facing today that seems impossible, insurmountable, or scary?*

Our text for today begins by calling to mind who God is.

- *Why is it important to remember who God is when you are facing the insurmountable?*

The text also reminds us what God has done in the past.

- *How has God worked in your past, or in the generations of your family, that you can call to mind to bolster your faith in the present?*

The king also named other people in whom God had worked.

- *What remarkable things have you seen God do in the lives of those around you?*
- *How important is your community of faith in times of trial?*
- *Recalling the king's encouragement to "have faith," how we can demonstrate fidelity to God and God's faithful voice in our present circumstances?*
- *How does this passage help us imagine a different way of responding when we face difficult circumstances?*