

A Wrong Alliance

Study 2 – Walking with God - Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 18

Message Mate

- What a contrast between the kings of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms of Israel. King Jehoshaphat of Judah worshipped God and got rid of Baal worship, whereas King Ahab of Israel worshipped Baal and killed the Lord's prophets. Ahab had seen the power of God when Elijah defeated the 450 prophets of Baal and 400 prophets of Asherah at Mt Carmel. Yet God was gracious to him, saving his life when attacked by King Ben-Hadad, yet after capturing King Ben-Hadad he let him go, a decision he would later regret when King Ben-Hadad would cause his death three years later.
- Why would Jehoshaphat form an alliance with Ahab given the opposing religious views of Jehoshaphat and Ahab? The marriage of their children was a disaster, leading to Ahab's daughter trying to kill all those in the royal line of David. Perhaps Jehoshaphat's motives were good in trying to facilitate reunification of the Northern and Southern Kingdoms, but compromising your faith has consequences. Always check your motives and your alignment with God. What would tempt you into a wrong alliance?
- Jehoshaphat agreed to Ahab's request to join in a military campaign, and then requested they seek the Lord's counsel. Maybe he wanted an off-ramp after his impetuous agreement. In response, Ahab sought the advice of 400 prophets of Baal who gave him what he wanted to hear. Jehoshaphat then requested to hear from a prophet of God, but Ahab didn't like that prophet because he prophesied the death of Ahab. Do you listen to the voices that say what you want, or to the Lord's voice?
- While the two kings Ahab and Jehoshaphat sat on two thrones on earth surrounded by the 400 prophets of Baal saying what Ahab wanted to hear, and one prophet speaking God's word, there was a heavenly council with the Lord sitting on his throne. The heavenly host typically fight for God's people, but Ahab was leading people away from God. Romans 1:24 says that God abandons people to do whatever shameful things their hearts desire. Ahab heart's desire was to follow Baal, so eventually the Lord let him hear what he wanted to hear through his prophets of Baal that told him what he wanted to hear. Beware of where your true heart motives lie. Are you truly aligned with God, or are you hearing the voices of those telling you what you want to hear?
- Ahab went into battle in disguise, hiding from men, but he could not hide from God. God knew where he was and God exercised his justice, using a "random" arrow to take Ahab's life. In contrast, Jehoshaphat stood out to men in his royal robes, and God knew where he was, protecting him from danger. God knows where you are.
- The reality is that there is a little of Jehoshaphat in all of us. We all form wrong alliances, we have listened to wrong voices, we have compromised our faith, yet even when we are in the middle of consequences from situations we have agreed to, we can cry out to God. God will hear us, even in our sinfulness. Cry out to God that Christ our Saviour might save you.

Some Questions to Consider

1. Have you ever gone through with something because of the people around you, even though you had a feeling it was not the right thing to do? What influenced your decision, and what happened as a result?
2. What kinds of relationships, ambitions or opportunities might tempt you to compromise your faith, even when your motives might initially seem good?
3. There is a significant difference between seeking God's voice compared to listening to voices that affirm what we already want to do. When God's word challenges you, how to do typically try to confirm what God wants so that you can do that?
4. The prophet Micaiah was told by the King's messenger to agree with all the other prophets. Have you been in situations where you felt pressured to conform to the voices around you? What would help you respond with the conviction of Micaiah who said, "As surely as the Lord lives, I can tell him only what my God says." (2 Chronicles 18:13).
5. King Ahab entered into the battle in disguise, whereas King Jehoshaphat entered into battle wearing his royal robes. While it might have initially confused the enemy, God knew where each of them were and brought His justice to Ahab and His mercy to Jehoshaphat. How reassured are you that God knows where you are – always?
6. There is a little of Jehoshaphat in all of us. We have all formed wrong alliances, listened to wrong voices and compromised our faith at different times. Think of a time when you have cried out to God and He saved you. If you are willing, share the testimony of this with others.

Pray –

Pray with thanks that God knows where you are and hears your cry for help.

Pray that we would hear God's voice more clearly so that you would do what He desires for you.