

Introduction:

1. "We do not know what to do?" Have you ever said something like this? If you have, you are not alone. Life has a way where we can find ourselves in difficult situations.
2. A great man from Uz named Job experienced this. A great king named Hezekiah as well. Another king by the name of Jehoshaphat said these words: "*We do not know what to do?*" Do you know why he said these words? Our study from 2 Chronicles 20 will help us answer this question and so much more. The past 2.5 years have been challenging. How we respond to the challenges we face matters. It's up to us to seek after God as this king did.

The Lesson:

I. Jehoshaphat was a king in the Southern Kingdom.

- A. He was son of King Asa, 2 Chronicles 17:1. He was 35 years old when he began ruling.
 1. His reign would last for 25 years, 20:31-32. The LORD was with him, 2 Chronicles 17:3-4.
 - a. He sought after God and not the Baals.
 - b. He took pride in the ways of the LORD, 2 Chronicles 17:6.
 - c. He sent men out to teach God's people the law, 2 Chronicles 17:7-9.
 - d. None of the kingdoms made war with him because the dread of the LORD was on them, 2 Chronicles 17:10. Even the Philistines blessed him, 2 Chronicles 17:11.
 2. He desired justice for the people in his city, 2 Chronicles 19:4-11.
- B. He was not perfect, but he did seek to do what was right. Let's consider 2 Chronicles 20.

II. The problem that led to his prayer.

- A. The Moabites, Ammonites, with some of the Meunites came against him, 2 Chronicles 20:3.
 1. 2 Chronicles 20:2: He received some bad news. **Have you received any bad news lately?**
 2. 2 Chronicles 20:3: This news affected him. He was afraid.
- B. Despite his fear, he did something we all must do. It says, "He resolved to seek the LORD."
 1. This wasn't the first time he would do this, 2 Chronicles 18:31-32.
 2. To seek the LORD means (looking at different translations) "To beg the LORD for guidance, to inquire of the LORD, to request, to ask. He did this in prayer.
 3. As he went to seek the LORD, he didn't do it alone! As a leader, he encouraged the people to do the same. **When we find ourselves with some kind of bad news, do we ask for our brethren to pray on our behalf? What is our default response?**
 4. **When we have problems, let's take them to God in prayer.**

III. The prayer of Jehoshaphat

- A. His prayer help's us to see how his confidence was in the LORD.
 1. Verses 5-9: Notice the words of the king as he petitioned God.
 - a. Verses 5-6: **Focused on God's power.**

- b. Verses 7-9: **Focused on God's power from the past. There's confidence.**
 - c. Verses 10-11: **He shared their present problem.**
 - d. Verses 12-13: **He recognized their weakness and total dependence on God. Do we?**
- B. God answered! How He answered should give us great encouragement!
1. His response seemed to be immediate, 2 Chronicles 20:13-15. The word of the LORD came to the people. They were to listen carefully.
 - a. Verse 15: Do not be afraid or discouraged. Their circumstances were too large for them to handle. But they were nothing for God. The battle belonged to Him.
 - b. Verses 16-17: God gave them instructions. They were stand still and see God's salvation. They could face the enemy because God was with them.
 - c. Verses 18-19: We see the faith of the people in that they worshipped God. The battle had not yet taken place, but there was an expectation that it was already finished. All they needed to do is believe and they would succeed, verse 20.
 2. It was! The enemies of Judah destroyed one another, 2 Chronicles 20:22-30. Amazing!

IV. Application for us

- A. Let's consider some thoughts to take away from this king who cried out to God.
1. ***He resolved to seek the LORD!*** We need to be people of prayer! DUH. Some may be thinking, "I came here on a Wednesday night to be reminded of that?" YES! Christians have always needed to be reminded of these things even when they are doing them, 1 Thessalonians 4:1-2; 2 Peter 1:13-14. How do we respond when we are afraid? What's your default mode? Is it prayer? It was for the king. Fear has a way of becoming crippling. It wasn't for this king. He turned his eyes to God. Are we doing the same?
 2. ***Our eyes are on you.*** There is a battle for our attention. ATTENTION = INFLUENCE. When you think back the past few years, where has your attention been? To keep our eyes on the LORD, we need to pray and fast! Put all of our attention on the LORD.
 3. ***All Judah was standing together*** I love the fact that the king proclaimed a fast for all Judah. All Judah was standing before the LORD, 2 Chronicles 20:13.
 4. ***Tomorrow, go out to face them.*** God expected the people to walk by faith. They did. They sang before the enemies were defeated. In the face of our challenges, we can still sing and pray. We can still worship and give thanks to the Lord. Is this our response?
 5. ***Believe in his prophets, and you will succeed.*** We need to trust God's word. What does God say about prayer, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18; Colossians 4:1-6; Acts 12:1-5.

Conclusion:

1. Has a vast number of problems come upon you as it did with the king? Are you asking questions?
2. Turn your eyes to God. See how God can change your fear to rest as He did with the king.