

My Eyes Are On You

Pastor Kent Priebe

What do you do when you don't know what to do?

In 2 Chronicles 20 three nations came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. When Jehoshaphat was told, "A vast army is coming against you," he was rightly alarmed.

At that point he could have been paralyzed by fear. He could have surrendered or retreated. Or he could have tried to figure out a plan. He could have assembled his army, or called on his allies for help. He could have taken matters into his own hands and assembled his generals to strategize a surprise attack.

Isn't that what many tend to do when faced with an impossible situation? Try to figure out a plan, borrow more money, get a second and third opinion, work harder, try harder.

You may think, "I know what to do. I run my life. I know what is best. I can plan my future. I can figure out how to solve this problem." Your power and ability, your intellect and your resources fill your vision. Your eyes are on YOU. That's the reaction of fear.

But that's not what Jehoshaphat did. He reacted in faith, not fear. He resolved to inquire of the Lord. He chose to stop and ask God what he should do. And he called on others to join him. He proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah responded beautifully. They came together from every town in Judah to seek help from the LORD.

They responded in faith.

King Jehoshaphat started by acknowledging who God was: "The God of our ancestors, ... 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" (v.6).

Jehoshaphat continued by reminding the Lord of what He had done for them in the past—driving out the inhabitants of the land and giving it to Abraham's descendants (v.7-8). Then he spelled out his predicament—we face men who are intent on driving us out of the possession You gave us as an inheritance (v.10-11). Jehoshaphat also appealed to God's righteous character: "Our God, will you not judge them?" (v.12)

King Jehoshaphat—who was supposed to have all the answers, who had the responsibility to protect the people—acknowledged his weakness, humbled himself and admitted his great need. He said, "We don't have power to face this vast army." He acknowledged that he didn't have a strategy; he didn't have enough resources or horses and chariots and soldiers. "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you" (v.12).

It requires faith in God to say, "I don't know what to do. My eyes are on you." When you take this step, you acknowledge you are not sufficient, you are not smart enough, you are not strong enough, wise enough, nor do you have the resources.

This step of faith in God acknowledges: I am not able, but God is. He is "able to do far more than we could ever ask for or imagine. He does everything by his power that is working in us" (Ephesians 3:20). I have no power, but God does. "Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you" (2 Chronicles 20:6). God, this seems impossible, "but with God all things are possible" (Matthew 19:26).

When you don't know what to do, surrender your self-sufficiency and put your faith in the all-powerful One who is your provider and say, "I don't know what to do, but my eyes are on you.

sermon study guide

IN – PURSUE RELATIONSHIP

1. What incident about distracted driving do you remember the most?
2. When was the last time you had overwhelming circumstances? What did you feel? How did you get through the circumstance?

UP – PURSUE GOD

3. Read 2 Chronicles 20:3-12. What did Jehoshaphat do before he asked for God's help? Why is it important to remember what God has done in impossible situations?
4. Read 2 Chronicles 20:15-17. What was God's detailed explanation of what to do and why? What does this mean for us?

OUT – PURSUE MISSION

5. Do you know someone who is facing an impossible challenge right now? How can you gracefully encourage them without being preachy?
6. What is our group currently doing to help each other keep our eyes on God? What should we stop doing? What should we start doing?

For Personal Reflection / Prayer:

Are you currently in a situation where you do not know what to do? Remember from your past experiences how God is good and faithful to you. What Scripture verses speak of God's power over the circumstances you are facing? Lean in and press in to God.

THE WORD

2 Chronicles 20:3-12

³ Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. ⁴ The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

⁵ Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard ⁶ and said:

“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. ⁷ 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? ⁸ They 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.’

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. ¹¹ See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. ¹² Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

2 Chronicles 20:15-17

¹⁵ He 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. ¹⁶ Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel. ¹⁷ You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.’”

This week's writers: Elsa Henderson, Mark Eckstein, Sandi Somers and Jorel Quemuel