

Jumpin' Jehoshaphat!

2 Chronicles 20 – August 17, 2014

Upcoming Sermon Series

The Prodigal <i>A Study of Jesus' Most Famous Story</i>		
<i>Date</i>	<i>Message Title</i>	<i>Bible Text</i>
Aug. 24	The Lost Younger Son	Luke 15
Aug. 31	The Lost Older Brother	Luke 15
Sept. 7	The Prodigal God	Luke 15
Sept. 14	Becoming More Like the Father	Luke 15
Sept. 21	The Prodigal Story as the Story of the Bible	Luke 15
Sept. 28	Heaven: The Father Throws a Party	Luke 15

Jehoshaphat in 2 Chronicles 20 in Three Words: “I’m all in!”

The Events of 2 Chronicles 20

- The Problem (vv.1-2)
- Jehoshaphat’s Response (vv.3-12)
- God’s Response (vv.13-17)
- Jehoshaphat’s Response (vv.18-21)
- Victory (vv.22-30)

Applying This Text to Your Life (2 Chronicles 20)

- What is the insurmountable problem you are facing right now? (vv.1-2)
 - Marriage problems
 - Parenting problems
 - Financial problems
 - Work problems
 - Health problems
 - Depression
 - Anxiety
 - Addiction
 - Lust and temptation
 - Other

- Respond to your problem the way that Jehoshaphat did to his and say “I’m all in!” (vv.3-30)

1. In the midst of your problems, set your face to seek the Lord (v.3)

- The phrase “set his face” is used 6 times in the ESV (Gen. 31:21; Num. 24:1; 2 Kings 12:17; 2 Chron. 20:3; Dan. 11:17; Luke 9:51). Each time, this phrase is used to describe an intense resolve. Three times (Gen. 31:21; 2 Kings 12:17; Dan. 11:17) it is used to describe an intense resolve to do something in battle.
- This phrase “set his face” is used to describe Jesus’ intense resolve to go to Jerusalem and to die for the sins of the world (Luke 9:51).
- Application #1 – Lord, with your help, I choose to “set my face” to seek You. By the power of Your Spirit, give me an intense resolve to seek You and to not give up.
- Navy Seal training: “Don’t ring the bell” (taken from Navy Admiral William H McRaven’s Commencement Speech at Univ. of Texas on May 17, 2014)

2. Declare your powerlessness and set your eyes on God (v.12)

- Step 1 in Alcoholics Anonymous: “We admitted we were powerless over alcohol – that our lives had become unmanageable.”
- Melody Beattie: “If Step One sounds like giving up, that’s because it is. This Step is appropriately humbling. It is also the bridge to the Second Step. For with our admission of powerlessness over that which we are truly powerless over, we receive the power to change.”
- Verse 12
- Louie Giglio’s story
- Peter walks on water (Matthew 14:25-33)
- Application #2 – Lord, I admit that I am powerless over.... I do not know what to do, but my eyes are upon You, Lord. My eyes are upon You.
- Song: “Turn Your Eyes Upon Jesus”

Turn your eyes upon Jesus.
 Look full in His wonderful face.
 And the things of earth will grow strangely dim.
 In the light of His glory and grace.

3. Believe that God will fight your battles for you (v.15)

- Rick Warren says that there are 365 “fear not’s” in the Bible. That’s 1 for every day of the year!

- The reason we are not to fear comes from the belief that God will fight our battles for us.
- David and Goliath (1 Samuel 17)
- **1 Samuel 17:46-47** – *“This day the Lord will deliver you into my hand, and I will strike you down and cut off your head... For the battle is the Lord’s, and He will give you into our hand.”*
- Elisha’s prayer when surrounded by the Syrian army
- **2 Kings 6:16-17** – *Elisha said to his servant, “Do not be afraid, for those who are with us are more than those who are with them.” Then Elisha prayed and said, “O Lord, please open his eyes that he may see.” So the Lord opened the eyes of the young man, and he saw, and behold, the mountain was full of horses and chariots of fire all around Elisha.*
- **1 John 4:4** – *Greater is He who is in you than he who is in the world.*
- **Romans 8:35-39** – *Who shall separate us from the love of Christ? Shall trouble or hardship or persecution or famine or nakedness or danger or sword? 37 No, in all these things we are more than conquerors through Him who loved us. 38 For I am convinced that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons, neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, 39 neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.*
- Application #3 – Lord, I believe; help my unbelief. I believe that You love me and will fight my battles for me. I trust in You.

4. By faith, begin to **praise Him** (v.22)

- When we praise Him, we are saying, “I’m all in!”
- Paul and Silas in the Philippian jail (Acts 16)
- Application #4 – Praise Him now.

Applying This Text to Our Church (2 Chronicles 20)

- The problems we are facing as a church include...
 - **Lost souls:** Thousands of people in our community do not have a saving relationship with God through Christ.
 - **An enemy:** Satan does not want us to worship God, walk with Christ, or reach souls for Christ.
 - **Busyness:** We are all extremely busy with work, school, and community activities
 - **Complacency:** Many of us are “comfortable” and are satisfied with life as the world around us goes to Hell.

- **Pain:** Many of us are in so much pain that we do not have the emotional or physical energy to engage in the Kingdom work that God is calling us to.
 - Let’s respond as a church like Jehoshaphat did:
 - Let’s set our face to seek the Lord (v.3)
 - Let’s declare “Our eyes are on You, Lord” (v.12)
 - Let’s trust the Lord for victory (v.15) and take the spoil of souls from the enemy (v.25)
- Luke 11:21-22** – *When a strong man, fully armed, guards his own house, his possessions are safe. But when someone stronger attacks and overpowers him, he takes away the armor in which the man trusted and divides up the spoils.*

A Vision for Grace Fellowship for Fall 2014

It is the vision of Grace Fellowship to be
a house of prayer for all nations.

- This year’s focus: **House**
- 2014 Theme Scripture: “As for me and my house, we will serve the Lord” – Joshua 24:15
- Let’s make a loud declaration to God saying, “I’m all in!”
- **Seven challenges for this Fall. Seven ways to say “I’m all in!”**
 - (1) Pray. Set your face to seek the Lord. Declare: “Our eyes are on You, Lord.”
 - (2) Make Christ the center of your home.
 - (3) Invite prodigals to church (“The Prodigal” series begins next Sunday, August 24).
 - (4) Receive God’s love (“Covenant” series begins October 5).
 - (5) Be in a small group (GroupLink, Alpha, or a Care Group).
 - (6) Serve Christ’s Church regularly in one way.
 - (7) Pray for Methodism (more to come).