

2 Chronicles 20:

Review:

When you feel overwhelmed ...

Lesson #1 - Never let the problem intimidate... instead let it motive you to pray more.

Lesson #2 - Never go it alone! Turn first to God but then pull in the church.

Lesson #3 - Focus on God not the problem.

A. Remember HOW BIG GOD IS.

B. Remember WHAT GOD HAS DONE IN THE PAST

C. Remember WHAT GOD HAS PROMISED

D. Appeal to God's character

Lesson #4 Admit your Inability

Lesson #5 Let God be God!

Look at God's Response. RELAX! When you you do these first four steps God will respond. And He tells us 2 things.

We can let God be God because...

A. This is not your battle

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.'

Now I love this. God does not say oh it's no big deal. That's not as big as you think it is. God recognizes it is a **vast army**. God does not belittle what you are going through He just tells us. It's not your battle. Look at someone next to you and say "**it's not your battle**"

But most times we don't want to hear that. We live by the mantra "If it is to be... It is up to me!"

Here is the truth: *If you are a child of God, **The problem is not the problem. The problem is you think it up to you to solve it.***

Here is the problem the more insecure & out of control your life feels, the more controlling you will become.

Here is what happens. When we fight "God's battles" we inevitably will fail. (God wants it that way BTW, because HE wants you to trust Him) Then we come to God and say I really let you down God. And the enemy throws condemnation at us.

And God responds "No, you didn't let me down, because you weren't holding me up!"

God allows problems in your life and my life to be so big and overwhelming so that we have to trust in Him or we will fail.

Let me give you a visual that you will never forget....

Lets say that I am going to take a trip to Kansas City to visit Elizabeth's family. And because it is such a long trip we decide we are going to fly.

Now I get in the plane and we buckle in. It's all good and the pilot come on the intercom and says we are about to depart so sit back and relax we will arrive in 3hrs and 5 min.

At this point I begin to flap my arms like I am a bird. As we taxi I start flapping harder and harder. My wife has now disowned me and the stewardess has called the air marshall because they think they have let a mad mad on the plane. They come over to settle me down and ask why I am doing this. And I tell them I am helping the plane stay in the air.

Now you look at this and say, *I am never flying anywhere with you Pastor Rod!* But we do this every day of our lives. God says to us. Sit back and relax and we flap our arms all around and say well God you need my help. This is overwhelming to me but I need to fix it!

Once you get tired enough God can begin. Here is a secret. **God will not take over until you let go.** Because He won't share the glory with anyone.

So if you are stressed, overwhelmed and out of control. Here is the antidote. Repeat 3 times...
God is God and I am NOT

B. You do not have to Fight! You have to Stand!

2 Chronicles 20:17-18

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.'" **18** *Jehoshaphat bowed down with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord.*

We can worship instead of worry, We can pray instead of panic!

You can resign as the GM of the universe.

STAND STRONG... Sometimes it takes more courage to stand and do nothing and trust.

Here is our method. Fight or Flight.

FIGHT

- We don't need to fight
- We don't need to manipulate
- We don't need to work behind the scenes
- We don't need to "help" God out

FLIGHT

- it is never God's will for me to run from a difficult situation.
- Sin - YES... Difficulties - NO

Let me tell you something I have learned... If you do run you will face it again!

So what is God's reminder to us?

Vs15 & Vs17

2x - Do not be afraid or discouraged!

Has God ever lost a battle? Every evil dictator eventually loses. But GOD never does!

2 Chronicles 20:20

Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.

Stability and Success is what God wants for us but look how it comes. **Faith in God** - Look at the character of God for Stability. **Faith in His prophets** - Look at the **Word of God** for success.

Lesson#6 Thank God in Advance

After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army, saying:

“Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever.”

22 As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated.

When we thank God **after** something happens it is called **gratitude**, When we thank God **before** it happens it is called **FAITH**.

Vs22. *As they began to sing...* At that moment! **God is waiting for you to do what only you can do before He will do what only He can do.**

He is waiting for you to stand in faith. Thank Him for what He is doing and He will defeat the enemy.

Lesson#7 Find the Blessing in the Bad

*When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped. 25 So Jehoshaphat and his men went to carry off their plunder, and they found among them a great amount of equipment and clothing and also articles of value—more than they could take away. There was so much plunder that it took three days to collect it. 26 On the fourth day they assembled in the Valley of Berakah, where they praised the Lord. This is why it is called the **Valley of Berakah** to this day.*

Berakah literally means **Blessing**.

God wants you to live not in the Valley of battles but in the valley of Blessing.

In this season he has something he wants for you. He has treasures he wants to give you.

I want us to memorize a verse together this series. **Isaiah 45:3** says...

"And I will give you treasures hidden in the darkness--secret riches. I will do this so you may know

that I am the LORD, the God of Israel, the one who calls you by name."

He has a blessing in this if we will just respond in the correct way.

Lesson#8 Know that GOD's Grace is for you!

*27 Then, led by Jehoshaphat, all the men of Judah and Jerusalem returned joyfully to Jerusalem, for the Lord had **given them** cause to rejoice over their enemies.*

Lesson#9 God desires to use your story to impact others

*The fear of God came on **all the surrounding kingdoms** when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. **30** And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.*

Lesson#10 God want you to be more than your past

***31** So Jehoshaphat ruled over the land of Judah. He was thirty-five years old when he became king, and he reigned in Jerusalem twenty-five years. His mother was **Azubah**, the daughter of **Shilhi**.*

Azubah - Forsaken - Ruins or destruction

Shilhi - Armed - War!

Jehoshaphat - Jehovah is Judge