

## Prayer and Fasting 2 Chronicles 20

1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to wage war against Jehoshaphat. 2 Some people came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Dead Sea. It is already in Hazezon Tamar" (that is, En Gedi). 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.**" 13 **All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the Lord.**

**6:00am** Make a list of areas in your life that are creating stress, fear, confusion, or depression. (Areas: Spiritual, Emotional, Environmental, Physical, Relational, etc). Write a little bit about what you're feeling.

**8:00am** In one sense, when Jehoshaphat resolves to inquire of the Lord, he is turning his attention away from the process of trying to figure things out and moving towards a dependency on God for help. Spend some time speaking out loud the worries and stress of your life. Imagine yourself literally handing them to your Heavenly Father as you say out loud, "I give you \_\_\_\_\_."

**10:00am** Jehoshaphat sought God with all of Israel for their deliverance. This time of prayer and fasting at the Village is an opportunity for you to do the same with your community. Jehoshaphat begins his prayer in verse 6 with a statement of who God is regardless of the circumstances. He then reflects on how God has shown up in Israel's history. Take a few minutes and rewrite his prayer in your own context. Add areas where God has shown up in your life and the life of the Village.

14 Then the Spirit of the Lord came on Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. 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.**”

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. 19 Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice. 20 Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, “Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! **Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful.**” 21 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.”*

**12:00pm** What battles are you fighting that are not yours to fight?

**2:00pm** Refer to the list of stressors you wrote at the 6 a.m. prayer time. If you haven’t yet made this list, write one now. Beside or under each one, write: “Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face this tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.”

**4:00pm** Jehoshaphat sent the singers out in front of the people. Singing praises to God is a powerful way to fight against darkness. We can’t sing together in person right now, but that doesn’t mean you can’t sing wherever you are. Stop and sing out some of your favorite songs to God. Click here for a suggested playlist of Village music. [Put link here]

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. 23 The Ammonites and Moabites rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, they helped to destroy one another. 24 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. 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. 28 **They entered Jerusalem and went to the temple of the Lord with harps and lyres and trumpets.** 29 **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.**

**6:00pm** Ammonites and Moabites come in many forms. Today they appear as the struggles that we face on a personal level and as a community and country. God has invited us to not shy away from them, but to go out and watch what He will do. The story of Jehoshaphat and Israel invites us to seek God, listen, and then act. Reflect on what the Holy Spirit is doing and ask God how you can join Him in it.

**8:00pm** Spend time thanking God for everything He has done for you and given you.

**10:00pm** The Kingdom experienced peace and rest. Read Colossians 3:15, Matthew 11:28-30, and John 14:27. Take a few minutes to breathe deeply as you meditate on the peace and rest of Christ. It's OK if you fall asleep while you're praying. Rest well tonight.