

## Our eyes are on you (Jehoshaphat)

Have you ever been in a situation where you don't know which way to turn? When your options are severely limited and you honestly don't know how things are going to work out?

If so, we are in good company! That's one thing I like about the Bible - it deals with real people in real life situations just like us!

### Reading 2Chron 20:1-30

Jehoshaphat was an obedient king, one who so far had been loyal to God and sought to have the whole nation follow in God's ways.

But - even if we are going God's way, doing the right thing - bad things happen!

Why?

We live in a cursed world

We have an enemy.

and Jehoshaphat's enemies came against him - all united in one go!

Jehoshaphat:

- **Was afraid** - (v3)
- **Felt powerless and unable to cope** - For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. (v12)
- **Know knowing what to do** - We do not know what to do (v12)

Can you identify with that? Stumped, at a loss which way to turn.

What I want to talk about today is what Jehoshaphat did in that situation and what we can learn to do as well.

## Our eyes are upon You

v12 - 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 upon you.

Did you see how that sentence ends? **But!** Thank God for that but! When we don't know what to do there is still one thing we can do - turn to God, look to Him.

Oh how **v12** is the hinge on which the chapter turns! If we left it with the first part of the verse we would be left in a most dismal, depressing, defeated and bleak state! But! What do Jehoshaphat and the people do? They turn to God! They look to Him, they turn their eyes to Him!

## Turn from other things

**What's that?!** (Point to something to draw their attention to)

What did you just do? You looked away from me to something else.

In turning our eyes to God, in looking to Him it implies there is a looking away from other things.

**Hebrews 12:2** Let us fix our eyes on Jesus....

The word for fixing your eyes upon/looking actually **means to look away from one thing so as to look at another**.

God wants us first of all to look away from yourself, your lack, your limitations, your inability and fill your gaze with something else.

### Ongoing repentance

God doesn't just tells us to look away from something If my faith looks in at myself, at the mountains, at the storms then I sink but faith is to continually look to Jesus and let Him and His all sufficiency fill my gaze.

Not to even look at my faith like a child constantly digging up the seed it has planted to see how it is doing.

Not to look at my performance or lack of it, the strength or fervency of my prayers but to look to Jesus, to cling to Him alone.

*Turn your eyes upon Jesus....*

- If I look within - not self belief
- If I look around
- But if I look to Him...!!!

### Dependency

This looking isn't merely a seeking a turning to, a hitting the, "In case of emergency, seek God" button but is rather a turning to Him in dependency:

**Psalms 104:27**

These all look to you,  
to give them their food in due season.

**Psa 123:1-2**

To you I lift up my eyes,  
O you who are enthroned in the heavens!  
<sup>2</sup> Behold, as the eyes of servants  
look to the hand of their master,  
as the eyes of a maidservant  
to the hand of her mistress,  
so our eyes look to the LORD our God,  
till he has mercy upon us.

See also **Ps 121** -

Jehoshaphat turned away from looking at his fear, his inability and weakness and instead turned to God in dependency.

**Submarine Christians** - all is going well... 😊 ↗ ➡ ↘ ↓

Did you know you were created to be dependant upon God, that you can't exist without looking to Him?

I wish I'd got the guts and not just the body for an object lesson!

### **Jer 13:11**

For as the loincloth clings to the waist of a man, so I made the whole house of Israel and the whole house of Judah cling to me, declares the Lord, that they might be for me a people, a name, a praise, and a glory, but they would not listen.

**What did God want of Israel?** That they cling to Him, that they cleaved to Him, pursued & followed hard after Him. See same use of the word in **Gen 2:24; Ps 63:8**. It was in this clinging that they would bring honour, praise & glory to God, not just merely in their obedience and temple attendance but in their pursuit of relationship with Him.

Clinging expressed by leaning hard upon Jesus; by leaning hard in faith; by staying close to in intimacy and not letting dry formalism come in; by staying close to and taking refuge in during times of fear and alarm. Remaining faithful and loyal to (as per Gen 2:24) -

Forsaking

All

I

Trust

Him.

Jehoshaphat was saying, "God, there is no plan B, God there is no safety net, God - WE NEED YOU!"

In turning our eyes and expectancy this way we take them off self, off things and off other helps and we therefore come to the place where God can give grace and supply - the humble heart - the proud person keeps on pushing forward, or at least tries to, but the humble person throws up their arms and says, God, help me!!

### **Home care job**

## **Expectancy**

But having our eyes upon God isn't a passive thing but in fact it is militant, aggressive and expectant:

### **Psalms 25:15**

My eyes are ever on the LORD,  
for he will release my feet from the snare.

My eyes are constantly fixed on Yahweh....

Constantly looking to, constantly expecting.

### **Looking for a bus - nonchalantly or on tiptoe?**

We need to have God open our eyes to enable us to see that we are not limited to our own earthly dearth of

resources. The saints of God have always found this to be their breakthrough point - God is greater than us and has more resources than us and nothing is impossible with God! Yes we are limited - but Yahweh isn't! When He steps onto the field the tables turn!

Expect God to turn up and do the things that only God can do!

I believe God wants to restore hope to our hearts - **what is hope?**

**Redundant, Washing machine broke - Sainsburys gift vouchers + Jehovah Jireh!**

We don't know what to do Lord! We're helpless, we're afraid and powerless!

But our eyes are upon You in expectancy and anticipation!

## **Faith-filled praise**

### **John 11:41-42**

Then they lifted up the stone and took it away. And Jesus lifted up His eyes and said, Father, I thank you because you heard me. <sup>42</sup> Moreover, I knew positively that you always hear me....

Jesus lifted up His eyes to the Father in thanksgiving. He is faced with the stinking, decaying, decomposing body of Lazarus but Jesus prays, "Father, I thank you because you heard me. <sup>42</sup> Moreover, I knew positively that you always hear me."

So to lift our eyes to God , looking away from other things, looking to Him in dependance, looking to Him in expectation can lead to lifting our eyes and saying, "Father, I thank You...." even before we see the clear, tangible answer to what we need.

See how Jehoshaphat acted in this situation:

20 "And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed." <sup>21</sup> And when he had taken counsel with the people, he appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy attire, as they went before the army, and say,

"Give thanks to the Lord,  
for his steadfast love endures forever."

<sup>22</sup> And when they began to sing and praise, the Lord set an ambush against the men of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah, so that they were routed."

This was faith filled - see **v20** - "And they rose early in the morning and went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. And when they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! **Believe** in the Lord your God, and you will be established; **believe** his prophets, and you will succeed."

- **Believe, believe!** And then as they went out they sang the praises of God.

Believe, put your trust in and have confidence in God.

Believe, put your trust in and have confidence in His word to you.

And then take a step of faith and express that faith in praise and thanksgiving to God.

God broke thru! In spite of very bleak and dire circumstances God broke into this situation.

Oh this morning are you like we found Jehoshaphat at the beginning of this chapter -

- Afraid
- Powerless
- Not knowing what to do

If that describes you then I encourage you this morning to fix your gaze upon Jesus, His greatness, His sufficiency, His generosity, His mercy, His willingness to help, His power.

Look away from all the other things and look to Him alone

Look to Him in dependency and throw your all upon Him - remember the definition of faith - F.A.I.T.H

Look to Him in expectation and anticipation - get ready to get on tiptoe!

Look to Him with thanksgiving - thank You Father that You hear my cry, You come to my aid, You are good and Your steadfast love endures forever.