The Humiliation of Jehoshaphat's Enemies
Lesson 13 in the series: "More Than a Story"

1. **Many of Jehoshaphat's enemies decided to attack him at the same time.**

   "After this, the armies of the Moabites, Ammonites, and some of the Meunites declared war on Jehoshaphat. Messengers came and told Jehoshaphat, 'A vast army from Edom is marching against you from beyond the Dead Sea. They are already at Hazazon-tamar.' (This was another name for En-gedi.) Jehoshaphat was terrified by this news and begged the LORD for guidance. He also ordered everyone in Judah to begin fasting. So people from all the towns of Judah came to Jerusalem to seek the LORD's help."
   2 Chronicles 20:1-4 (NLT)

   Note: **When you feel like everything and everyone is attacking you, it's time to <u>seek</u> the Lord and His guidance, not run away in fear.**

   "You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back from captivity. I will gather you from all the nations and places where I have banished you," declares the LORD, "and will bring you back to the place from which I carried you into exile." Jeremiah 29:13-14 (NIV)

   "If you need wisdom, ask our generous God, and he will give it to you. He will not rebuke you for asking." James 1:5 (NLT)

   "Trust in the LORD with all your heart; do not depend on your own understanding. Seek his will in all you do, and he will show you which path to take." Proverbs 3:5-6 (NLT)

2. **Jehoshaphat gathered the people and led a prayer meeting.**

   Jehoshaphat stood before the community of Judah and Jerusalem in front of the new courtyard at the Temple of the LORD. He prayed, "O LORD, God of our ancestors, you alone are the God who is in heaven. You are ruler of all the kingdoms of the earth. You are powerful and mighty; no one can stand against you! O our God, did you not drive out those who lived in this land when your people Israel arrived? And did you not give this land forever to the descendants of your friend Abraham? Your people settled here and built this Temple to honor your name. They said, 'Whenever we are faced with any calamity such as war, plague, or famine, we can come to stand in your presence before this Temple where your name is honored. We can cry out to you to save us, and you will hear us and rescue us.' "And now see what the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir are doing. You would not let our ancestors invade those nations when Israel left Egypt, so they went around them and did not destroy them. Now see how they reward us! For they have come to throw us out of your land, which you gave us as an inheritance. O our God, won't you stop them? We are powerless against this mighty army that is about to attack us. We do not know what to do, but we are looking to you for help." 2 Chronicles 20:5-12 (NLT)

   A. Prayer reminds us that God is <u>all-powerful</u>.

   B. Prayer reminds us what God has done in the <u>past</u>.

   C. Prayer reminds us of God's <u>promises</u>.

   D. Prayer reminds us Who is in control and keeps us <u>humble</u>.

3. **Jahaziel encouraged the people by speaking what God showed him.**

   "As all the men of Judah stood before the LORD with their little ones, wives, and children, the Spirit of the LORD came upon one of the men standing there. His name was Jahaziel… He said, 'Listen, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Listen, King Jehoshaphat! This is what the LORD says: Do not be afraid! Don't be discouraged by this mighty army, for the battle is not yours, but God's. Tomorrow, march out against them. You will find them coming

up through the ascent of Ziz at the end of the valley that opens into the wilderness of Jeruel. But you will not even need to fight. Take your positions; then stand still and watch the LORD's victory. He is with you, O people of Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid or discouraged. Go out against them tomorrow, for the LORD is with you!'"

2 Chronicles 20:13-17 (NLT)

Encourage- To inspire with hope, courage or confidence.

Note: **We are called to encourage and comfort one another!**

"So encourage each other and build each other up…" 1 Thessalonians 5:11 (NLT)

"He (God) comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us."

2 Corinthians 1:4 (NLT)

4. **The Lord defeated Jehoshaphat's enemies through songs of praise!**

"Then King Jehoshaphat bowed low with his face to the ground. And all the people of Judah and Jerusalem did the same, worshiping the LORD. Then the Levites from the clans of Kohath and Korah stood to praise the LORD, the God of Israel, with a very loud shout. Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and said, 'Listen to me, all you people of Judah and Jerusalem! Believe in the LORD your God, and you will be able to stand firm. Believe in his prophets, and you will succeed.' After consulting the people, the king appointed singers to walk ahead of the army, singing to the LORD and praising him for his holy splendor. This is what they sang: 'Give thanks to the LORD; his faithful love endures forever!' At the very moment they began to sing and give praise, the LORD caused the armies of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir to start fighting among themselves. The armies of Moab and Ammon turned against their allies from Mount Seir and killed every one of them. After they had destroyed the army of Seir, they began attacking each other. So when the army of Judah arrived at the lookout point in the wilderness, all they saw were dead bodies lying on the ground as far as they could see. Not a single one of the enemy had escaped." 2 Chronicles 20:18-24 (NLT)

Note: **Praise is a powerful weapon God has given us to defeat our enemies! Praise changes the atmosphere because our awareness shifts from our circumstances to the power and presence of God with us.**

"Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel." Psalm 22:3 (NLT)

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Hebrew Words for Praise

Halal* — (165 times in scripture) to boast, make a show, celebrate, rave, be clamorously foolish *(Psalm 150:1-2, Psalm 150:6)

Yadah* — to extend the hand, to throw the hand, the giving of oneself in worship and adoration *(Psalm 107:15)

Towdah* — an extension of the hand to offer thanks, to offer the sacrifice of praise in faith for what God is going to do, to show agreement *(Psalm 50:23)

Shabach* — to shout, to triumph *(Psalm 145:4)

Tehillah* — to sing, to celebrate with song, a new spontaneous song *(Psalm 100:4)

Barak* — to kneel down, an act of adoration *(Psalm 95:6)

Zamar* — to play an instrument, to sing, to make music *(1 Chronicles 16:9)