

Sermon Series: Rooted in Fellowship
Sermon Title: "Their Eyes Were Watching God"
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Date: September 26, 2021
Scripture: 2 Chronicles 20: 1-12, 18-23
Key Verse: "We do not now what to do but our eyes on you" (v. 12)

Passage Summary

In this passage, Jehoshaphat, the 4th King of Judah, was facing a huge army. (v.1) Though he had faced armies before, this time felt different and he was afraid, terrified in fact.(v.3) He cried out to God for help and proclaimed a fast. (v. 3) The people joined Jehoshaphat in seeking God's support to defeat their enemies. (v. 4) Later in the passage, still seeking God, Jehoshaphat bowed down along with the people to worship God. (v.18). The next day, they went into battle led by the singers. (v. 21). Then the Lord set an ambush against the enemies of Judah. In the end, the enemies wound up destroying each other. (v. 22-23).

Sermon Summary

Sometimes we face obstacles, enemies even, and we feel as though we are standing all by ourselves. We may have had trials before but at times new trials feel different. And if we are honest we become afraid just as Jehoshaphat did. Yet like him, when we are rooted in fellowship, when we stand with a community of the faithful, when we are connected with God and others, we do not go to battle alone. Thus, we gather in fellowship to:

1. **STAND in the House of Lord.** Like the people of Judah, we stand before the Lord in the house of the Lord to find strength in God and one another for the battles we face.
2. **SAY SOMETHING about the story of God.** When we gather, through worship and song, and scriptures shared, we tell the stories of our ancestors, whom God covered and delivered. We recite, recall those scriptures that we heard our parents and grandparents recite to remind us that the same God who was with them is also with us.
3. **SEEK GOD's FACE.** Even when like Jehoshaphat, we don't know what to do, we know to keep our eyes on God who is our help. Seeking God's face through our collective worship reminds us to turn to the God of our salvation in times of crisis. When we don't know what to do, God does.

Bonus point: Like the enemies in this text began fighting each other, evil always goes too far and will end up destroying itself.

Reflection Questions

1. Have you ever been fearful in a time of crisis? If so, how did you face your fears?
2. How does knowing that the singers went before the army when they faced a battle, deepen your understanding of the importance of music in worship?
3. What song do you have in your heart when you are facing a crisis?
4. What scripture do you hide in your heart when facing a crisis?
5. In what ways do you think being rooted in fellowship helps us to face individual and collective obstacles?
6. How can worshipping God help us to garner our collective strength to face down evil in the world?

