



Shepherd's Path

A Shepherd's Personal Devotions

Good Kings – Bad Kings Series, Lesson 17

Lesson Title: Jehoshaphat's Army of Praise

Take Home Point: When discouraged, pray and praise.

Warm-Up:

George Mueller founded and administered an orphanage in England in the 1800s. Food and money were hard to come by, but Mueller prayed frequently and fervently for God to supply, believing that he would. One evening there was nothing to eat in the orphanage as the children sat down at the tables. Mueller thanked God for the food he gave them. At that moment there was a knock at the door. A grocer stood there; he said he felt God prompting him to give a large quantity of bread to the orphanage! No sooner had he delivered his food than another knock came. A milk wagon had broken down on the road, and rather than let the milk spoil, the farmer wondered if the children could use it!

Read: 2 Chronicles 20:1-30

Observation (What happened?):

What key phrase does Jehoshaphat use in his prayer at the end of verse 12?

How did Jehoshaphat and the Israelites respond to the words of the prophet Jahaziel?

Interpretation (What does it mean?):

What did Jehoshaphat demonstrate to the people when he called a fast and an assembly at the temple?

What did Jehoshaphat demonstrate to the people when he instructed some men to sing out loud at the head of his advancing army?

Insight:

As a human being, I am well aware of my shortcomings and weaknesses, and that I am limited in what I can do for others. As a father, I am also aware that my children depend on me to help them when they need help. I can't recall the number of times I have heard from them almost the same phrase Jehoshaphat uses in verse 12, *"Can you help me? I don't know what to do!"* It's not that I eagerly look forward to their being in a situation that they can't handle, but I am glad when they ask my help. It's the father in me. I know they will get discouraged at times. And, as a human father, I can't always fix things as I would like, but I like it that they turn to me. If that's how it is for me, imagine what it must be like for our heavenly Father! As Jesus says in Matthew 7:11: *"If you, then, though you are evil, know how to give good gifts to your children, how much more will your Father in heaven give good gifts to those who ask him!"* (NIV) How many times in his word does he tell us to turn to him, call on him, wait for him, and trust him? Remember, *"...we are more than conquerors through him who loved us!"* (Romans 8:37 NIV)

Application (What does it mean to me?):

What discouragement do you face? How are you talking to God about it?

Take a moment to praise him for what he will do in and through your discouraging time.

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