

**The 5<sup>th</sup> Sunday after Pentecost ~ Sunday, June 19, 2016**  
**“Unsung Heroes: Great Lessons From the Lesser Known ~**  
**Jehoshaphat: Winning the Battles of Life**  
**2 Chronicles 20:1-12; 18-23**

When it comes to war, \_\_\_\_\_ is everything.

Strategy = “The art or science of the \_\_\_\_\_ and conduct of a war; or a particular long-term plan for \_\_\_\_\_.”

Strategy isn’t just for war—it’s important in everyday living—as we face the \_\_\_\_\_.

“After this, the Moabites and Ammonites, with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.” (2 Chronicles 20:1)

### 5 STRATEGIES FOR WINNING THE BATTLES OF LIFE

**Strategy #1:** \_\_\_\_\_.

Jehoshaphat’s response when he heard His enemies were coming against him was \_\_\_\_\_.

It is not so much fear itself that matters, but what we do with it—the amount of \_\_\_\_\_ we give it.

When we find ourselves in a place of fear and uncertainty, we have two choices—we can let it motivate us to \_\_\_\_\_ or we can let it \_\_\_\_\_ us.

“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 20:3-4)

Jehoshaphat’s fear motivated him to \_\_\_\_\_; to call the nation to prayer and \_\_\_\_\_.

Instead of worrying, we need to act—we need to \_\_\_\_\_ to God.

“Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he’s done. Then you will experience God’s peace, which exceeds anything we can understand. His peace will guard your hearts and minds as you live in Christ Jesus. (Philippians 4:6-7)

Often we try to \_\_\_\_\_ our own battles and work things out ourselves first—and prayer becomes a \_\_\_\_\_.

“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!” (2 Chronicles 20:6)

**What’s the first thing that you do when you find yourself faced with a problem or challenge? Is prayer a first line of defence or a last resort?**

**Strategy #2:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“O 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 20:12)

Jehoshaphat knew they didn’t have the power to defeat their advancing foes. However, he also knew that \_\_\_\_\_ did.

He remembered God’s \_\_\_\_\_ to His people in years past and he trusted that nothing was beyond God’s ability to save and \_\_\_\_\_.

The only person that God can’t help is the person who \_\_\_\_\_ think they need help—the person who is stubbornly \_\_\_\_\_ and self-reliant.

God has given us \_\_\_\_\_ and as a result, He won’t jump into a situation where He’s not \_\_\_\_\_.

We were never meant to go it \_\_\_\_\_. We need God’s power and strength everyday.

“But you will receive power when the Holy Spirit comes upon you.” (Acts 1:8)

“Not by might, nor by power, but by my spirit, says the Lord of hosts.” (Zech 4:6)

**Are you able to admit your inadequacies and ask God for help—or do you prefer to go it alone and do it all yourself?**

**Strategy #3:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“But power and might are in your hands.” (2 Chronicles 20:6)

It is all in God’s \_\_\_\_\_.

There are some problems in life that we can’t solve on our \_\_\_\_\_, no matter how hard we try. We need to turn to God and \_\_\_\_\_ in Him

“My grace is all you need. My power works best in weakness.” (2 Corinthians 12:9)

Our God is more than \_\_\_\_\_. In our weakness—He is \_\_\_\_\_.

Often, during the storms of life, we can \_\_\_\_\_ that Jesus is with us.

As the Book of Hebrews tells us, no matter what’s going on around us, we need to;

“\_\_\_\_\_ our \_\_\_\_\_ on Jesus, the author and finisher of our faith.”

“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.’” (2 Chronicles 20:15)

There are so many people out there—I know I’ve been one of them—maybe you have too—trying to \_\_\_\_\_ God’s battles.

God tells them not to be afraid because He’s going to \_\_\_\_\_ for them—and God has never lost a battle!

**What do you do when the odds seem to be against you**

**Do you have faith or fear?**

**Do you rely on yourself and your own strength or do you really on God?**

**Strategy #4:** \_\_\_\_\_.

It is never God’s will for us to \_\_\_\_\_ a battle.

“Take your positions; stand firm and watch the Lord’s victory.” (2 Chronicles 20:17)

Standing firm in the face of a trial or challenge is all about \_\_\_\_\_; a quiet \_\_\_\_\_ that says; “No matter what happens, I’m going to trust in God.”

“Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be able to stand firm. Believe in His word, and you will succeed.” (2 Chronicles 20:10)

## STANDING FIRM

• **Stand firm on God’s** \_\_\_\_\_.

“I will sing of the Lord’s unfailing love forever! ...Your faithfulness is as enduring as the heavens...For who in all of heaven can compare with the Lord?...Where is there anyone as mighty as you, O Lord? You are entirely faithful...Powerful is your arm! Strong is your hand! Your right hand is lifted high in glorious strength. Righteousness and justice are the foundation of your throne.” (Psalm 89:1ff)

God never \_\_\_\_\_ and we can stand firm on His \_\_\_\_\_.

• **Stand firm on God’s** \_\_\_\_\_.

“Blessed are they who do not follow the advice of the wicked, take the path of sinners, or join the company of mockers; but delight in the teachings of the Lord and reflect on His teachings day and night. They are like trees planted beside streams; that produce fruit in season and whose leaves do not wither. In all that they do, they prosper.” (Psalm 1:1-3)

Standing on God’s word gives us a solid \_\_\_\_\_ and helps us to be \_\_\_\_\_.

“With all these things in mind, dear brothers and sisters, stand firm and keep a strong grip on the teaching we passed on to you.” (2 Thessalonians 2:15)

**What do you do when you find yourself in the midst of a trial or challenge?**

**Do you run away or do you stand firm?**

**Strategy #5:** \_\_\_\_\_.

“When he had taken counsel with the people, Jehoshaphat appointed those who were to sing to the Lord and praise him in holy splendour, as they went before the army, saying, ‘Give thanks to the Lord, for His steadfast love endures forever.’” (2 Chronicles 20:21)

Putting the worshippers before the army to praise God even before the battle begins is a sign of \_\_\_\_\_.

This also shows us that there’s \_\_\_\_\_ in worship—especially when all seems \_\_\_\_\_.

“Rejoice always, pray without ceasing, give thanks in all circumstances; for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus for you.” (1 Thessalonians 5:16)

**Are you able to trust God enough to give Him thanks in advance?**

“If God is for us, who can be against us?” (Romans 8:31)

Our God is mighty to \_\_\_\_\_. The battle belongs to \_\_\_\_\_!

“Do not be afraid, because I am with you. Do not be intimidated; I am your God. I will strengthen you. I will help you. I will support you with my victorious right hand.” (Isaiah 41:10)

“...overwhelming victory is ours through Christ, who loves us.” (Romans 8:37)