

Series: **EQUIPPED TO PRAY**

Title: **Call to Praise: Submission**

Text: **2 Chronicles 20**

We have taught on....

- Call to *relationship* with a Holy God.
- Call to *recognition* of His voice.
- Call to the *invitation* into in the three unseen arenas of spiritual battles: The Heavens, The Mind, The Ministry Moment.
- Call to the *position* of persistent and constant prayer.
- Last week we looked at the call to *taking the offense* against the enemy.

Today I want to speak of the key to heavenly peace in the storms of life: Praise

CALLED TO PRAISE (Submission)

Troubles will come your way. They may seem unsurmountable.

- The truth is that are present to draw you to the Lord and to bring you to recognition that you cannot do it without Him.
- The act of praise throws all authority and worthiness on another.
 - It is the release of self and the submission of self to the other.
 - Recognition
 - Ability
 - It is the deferring of all accolades to the Lord.

When Trouble Comes, We Praise

A Lesson from King Jehoshaphat

2 Chronicles 2:1-4

¹ After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle. ² Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A great multitude is coming against you from Edom, from beyond the sea; and, behold, they are in Hazazon-tamar" (that is, Engedi). ³ Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. ⁴ **And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.**

State your fear to the Lord (3)

- His fear was not a sin... it happens.
- Fear is natural.
 - Countless times the Lord speaks to His people and says fear not! He knows we are prone to fear and paralysis.
- God has not given us a spirit of fear but one of power, love, and self-control.
- This is emphasized by the voice of a descendant of Asaph – a leader of the king’s choir and musicians in David’s time. He was a prophet and a seer.
- The Spirit moves in his descendant.
 - And the Spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel...
 - 13-17 –
 - All the people
 - *‘Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God’s. v. 15*

2 Chron. 20:17

You will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.’ Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.”

Set Your Face to the Lord (3)

- Who are you looking at?
- Where is your focus?
 - Is it on the problem?
 - Is it in the dirt with discouragement?
 - Is it on others in comparison? Or judgement and blame?

Seek your help From the Lord (4)

- The king talks with the Lord to ask. Later he will speak to the people and ask God in front of them and with them for assistance.
 - vs. 18-20
 - Bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem fell down before the Lord, worshipping the Lord.
 - ¹⁹ *And the Levites, of the Kohathites and the Korahites, stood up to praise the Lord, the God of Israel, with a very loud voice.*

Praise as Wonder and Welcome

2 Chronicles 20:5-9

⁵ *And Jehoshaphat stood in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem, in the house of the Lord, before the new court,* ⁶ *and said, “O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You*

rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. ⁷ Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? ⁸ And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, ⁹ 'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.

Recognition of God's Power (6)

- Are you not the God of heaven?
- You rule!!!!
 - Over nations yes
 - But more importantly – you rule over ME.

Remembrance of God's promise (7)

- Did you not, oh God, drive out and give this to your friend?
- You and I both know what you have said and what you have done.
- I want you to know that I see the goodness of your word.

Recall our love for Him (8)

- We have built a sanctuary for your name.
- His name is HOLY to you and me.
- Our body, the temple will live out to the glory of His name.

Request Him to hear and save (9)

- We cry out in our affliction.
- We ask for You to hear.
- We ask for You to save.
- We know You have done it.
- We know You can do it.
- We ask that You will do it.
- **10-12 – they continued asking for God's help.**

2 Chron. 20:13-20 echoes this.

Praise as Warfare

Praise is what we do to secure victory in any battle:

- By engaging in praise, we transfer our battles to Him. It is a God-given weapon in our hands, with which to humiliate the devil.

2 Chronicles 20:21-22

²¹ *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."*

²² *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.*

Here are the steps:

Appointed to sing and praise (21)

- He calls on all of us to enter into His presence with praise and thanksgiving.
- **In Holy attire - *hadarah* - adornment, glory**
 - Holy - apartness, sacredness
 - We are different... We are walking in the sacred places and on the holy ground.
 - Attire - adornment, glory
 - *...and who should praise the beauty of holiness.* NKJV
 - *...praise him for the splendor of his holiness.* NIV
 - *...praised Him in their holy (priestly) attire.* Amplified
 - Psalm 29:2
 - *Ascribe to the LORD the glory due His name; worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness.*
 - Psalm 96:9
 - *Worship the LORD in the splendor of His holiness; tremble before Him, all the earth.*
- We are called his priests:
 - Clothe ourselves in the splendor of HIS glory.
 - Christ Jesus is the complete expression of Heaven's glory – the fullness of His glory.
 - And we are to be clothed in Christ.
 - Position in our minds and in our hearts in the pace of worship and in HIS presence.

Ahead of all to lead the way (21)

- The first thing
- The musicians led the way across the Jordan into the promise land.
 - The second their foot touched the water – the barrier divided.

Appreciation given to God (21)

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

- In the face of your sorrow and suffering
- In the face of the enemy
- In the face of the world around you
 - Like Job, we will not crumble; we will not curse God; we will not falter.
 - Though all you friends and family call you out and say, “How can you praise God?”
 - We say, “Though you slay me, yet will I serve you.”
 - *The Lord gives and the Lord takes away. Blessed be the name of the Lord*
- *“Give thanks to the Lord, for his steadfast love endures forever.”*

Ambush was brought by the Lord (22)

- In that moment of praise – God from his throne does HIS thing:
- Verses 23-26 tell the story.
 - Confusion in the camp.
 - They turn on each other.
 - Not one remained standing.
 - All the blessings and bounty came into the hands of those who praised.
- The battle belongs to the Lord!
 - Read the Scriptures – What does it show about the Power of God?

How do you activate the power of praise?

Don't wait for the feelings or conditions! Start praising!

You can activate the power of praise just as king Jehoshaphat did; when trouble strikes, praise the Lord and you'll stir up confusion in Satan's camp.

- You don't have to wait till you feel like singing before you do; just go ahead and make melodies or sing praises to the Lord.
- Turn on praise music.
- Sing out loud.

Paul and Silas

Acts 16:25-26 – ²⁵ About midnight Paul and Silas were praying and singing hymns to God, and the prisoners were listening to them, ²⁶ and suddenly there was a great earthquake, so that the foundations of the prison were shaken. And immediately all the doors were opened, and everyone's bonds were unfastened.

- They had prayed deliverance in the life of a young girl.
- The owners told the authorities,
 - *“These men are Jews, and are throwing our city into an uproar by advocating customs unlawful for us Romans to accept or practice.”*

- They are flogged and beaten.
 - They are placed in prison – deep in the inner cells in stocks
- Their response – Praise and singing.
 - Miracle brings freedom.
 - Jailer is saved.

Why is Praising God so powerful?

It changes us for the better and enthrones the Lord into our situation.

Praise is indeed a potent and restorative tool.

It changes us for the better and enthrones the Lord into our situation:

- By refocusing our affections, realigning our priorities, and restoring our souls.
- Our spirit becomes more pliable, open, and receptive to receiving to God's Holy Spirit.

David knew the importance and power of praise warfare. In many Davidic Psalms, we see the relationship between worship and warfare.

Psalm 22:3

But You are holy, God inhabits the praises of His people. NKJV

Yet you are holy, enthroned on the praises of Israel. ESV

- Literarily, this means that, when we worship God, we give Him a seat to sit in our midst and fight over our enemies.

Praise as Worship

2 Chronicles 20:27-30

²⁷ Then they returned, every man of Judah and Jerusalem, and Jehoshaphat at their head, returning to Jerusalem with joy, for the Lord had made them rejoice over their enemies. ²⁸ They came to Jerusalem with harps and lyres and trumpets, to the house of the Lord. ²⁹ And the fear of God came on all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard that the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. ³⁰ So the realm of Jehoshaphat was quiet, for his God gave him rest all around.

- Every man returned with joy and rejoicing.
- They rejoiced with music.

Worship by Singing

- Harps and lyres
- Praise music is at the center of victory within the soul.

- Each of us has a type of music that lifts the soul to the heavens.
- The Jesus Music Movie – The story of Christian Contemporary Music
 - It started as Praise and has returned to praise.

Worship by Speaking

- They all came returning with joy and rejoicing.
- They heard themselves declare it.
- They told others of the glory of God.

Worship by Showing

- Our obedience allows the world to see the God who is mightier than the world and the realms of man.
- The nations heard of God's victory and trembled.

Challenge

I will praise the Lord daily to show that He is over my life.

I will praise the Lord daily to give thanks for the wonders He has done.

I will praise the Lord daily to enthrone Him over the struggles of my life.

I will praise the Lord daily to show myself, those around me, and the world the glory of the One whom I serve.