What To Do When You Don’t Know What To Do
II CHRONICLES 20:1-30
Text Vs 12

Have you ever felt overwhelmed by your problems? Have you ever felt that you had more on you then you could handle?

Let’s be honest and face the truth. All of us have had problems and challenges in our lives that seem to be confusing and overwhelming. Let me ask you. How do you, as a child of God, go about solving those problems and facing those challenges in your life which sometimes seem impossible and overwhelming?

Jehoshaphat was King of Judah, the Southern Kingdom for about 25 years, and he was a good king. He was a righteous man who tried to bring about a revival of faith in God in the nation. He had an army of about a million men. On this particular occasion, he heard about the armies of the Moabites and the Ammonites coming together to do battle with Judah to drive them out of their land. And when he heard this, his first inclination was to be afraid. But notice quickly what he did. In verse 3 notice what he did when he was afraid. Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord and he proclaimed a fast for all of Judah.

I am sure there are some people here who are facing a crisis in their lives right now. I know without a shadow of a doubt that there are some who will face a challenge in the near future. When these challenges come our way, if we do not pray right or act right then our prayers and actions will be in vain. This is exactly why so many people pray but don't seem to find an answer to their prayers. If you have come here today and you feel that way, maybe God has brought you here to discover why and how a person can pray about their problems and never get a solution. If you will study this passage of Scripture with me and abide by what you learn, I believe you can discover how you can pray and receive a solution to your dilemma. It begins with a question. Am I willing to abide by God's solution, whatever that solution may be? I may have come to God with a preconceived notion of what the solution is and I have decided what God should do. If God would only cooperate with me, then everything would be OK. The problem with this is that God does not operate this way. So I want us to look at some truths for problem-solving that can be found in this passage of scripture.

1. **Realize God Is Your First Response Not Your Last.**
I read a story a while back about a lady that went to the doctor for a problem. The doctor told her that the only thing left to do was pray. With that the woman grab her chest and cried out, “O My God Has It Come Down to That?”

What is your first response to a problem? Is it doubt, fear or unbelief? Or is your first response to pray?

For many Christians prayer is often the last response to their problem. They do as the lady did, “O My Has It Come Down To That.” Let me say one other thing before moving on. Many Christians don't pray hardly at all until they find themselves in a problem beyond their control.

Notice verse 3, **Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.** I am sure there are some here who read that passage and thought, “That is exactly what I do. Pastor, as soon as a problem arises, I start praying.” Notice what Jehoshaphat did. He sought the Lord in fasting and praying, which means that prayer and seeking the presence of God became a priority. Now listen closely to what I am about to say. Here is the reason you and I can bring our problems to God and for some reason do not get an answer. Most of us pray to God on our way to doing something else. Yes, we begin the day in prayer and that is good. It certainly beats not praying at all, but you see, if God is going to solve our problems, then He must be a priority of our lives as well. God needs our attention. He needs our concentration. He needs for us to think the way He thinks. The Bible says, **Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord** . . . He did not call his commanding generals together and say, “OK men, we must devise a strategy to defeat the Moabite and the Ammonite armies.” The Bible says the first thing Jehoshaphat did was to seek the Lord.

When you receive news that challenges you or you suddenly have to face a problem, what is your first response? Do you dial a friend or do you dial God? Is your first response negative or positive? Is your first response to lose heart or express confidence? Do you honestly believe that the God who lives inside of you will see you through this? What is your first response? The natural response of every Christian who is walking in the Spirit should be total confidence that God can handle any problem which comes your way.

I know the natural response for any person, Christian or not, is to first think of meeting needs in our own strength. This is only natural; however, after feeling alone for a moment, the power of God should take over to give you great confidence in His presence. “Is there anything too big for my God?” Nothing!
When Satan whispers in our ears, with his feelings of fear and doubt, we should let them go in one ear and out the other in light of who we are according to Scripture. Of course, you will feel fears at times, but they should be fleeting fears. Don't allow those fears to dominate you. The Bible tells us 83 times that we should fear not because of our relationship to God. Fear should be a fleeting emotion for the people of God—not one we live with.

2. Turn Your Attention Toward God.

2 Ch 20:3 (NASB) Jehoshaphat was afraid and turned his attention to seek the LORD, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah.

If we are not careful, we will develop the attitude of the disciples when they were caught in a storm. Master, don't you even care that we are all about to perish. (Mark 4:38) You must understand that God does know about and cares about your problem. 1 Peter 5:7 Tells us that we can cast all of our cares on Him because He cares for us. Jehoshaphat knew and understood this truth. Therefore, he could talk to God about his problem.

A. God is a Covenant.

O Lord, God of our fathers . . . It was very important that Jehoshaphat began his prayer in this manner. It's the same with us because when you and I trusted Christ as our Savior, God the Father entered into a covenant relationship with us. This is a relationship of promise whereby God, at that moment, made a pledge with you and me that everything which concerns us will concern Him. Every need we have will concern Him. Every desire of our heart will concern Him. God has committed to live within us and face every problem that we face, because we are in a covenant relationship with Him. This means everything that concerns me concerns God—every problem that I have is God's problem. We entered into a covenant relationship when we invited Christ to be our Savior and He desires to work in our lives if we will but let Him. The moment we invited Christ in our life we became a child of God and He cares about His children. So the first thing we need to remember is that God cares about our problems.

B. God is Sovereign and All Powerful.

verse 6 again, O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not the God who is in Heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you.
Is God all powerful? He is! Is He all knowing? He is! Is He merciful? Yes, He is. Has he made a covenant relationship with us? Yes, He has.

Can you think about anything today, any problem, any challenge, any battle, any suffering, any pain, or any circumstance under any condition that is too large for God? Of course, you cannot. We need to remember is that our problem is not too big for our God. God is greater than any problem we might have.

2 Chronicles 20:12 (ESV)  
(12) O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you.”

A. Admit you can’t handle the problem on your own.

B. Admit that you don’t know what to do or have the answer.

C. Stay Focused on Jesus, He is the source of your strength and the answer to your problem.

3. Solicit Others to Pray With You.

4. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek Him.

The people came from everywhere to stand before the Lord. I am not saying you and God cannot solve your own problems. For the most part you and God are plenty, but there are some problems God will not allow you to solve by yourself. There are two reasons.

* God does not want us to live like islands isolated to ourselves. You see, He has made us part of a great family; Therefore, there are times when we need to solicit the prayers of other people on our behalf. If you do not have a prayer warrior praying on your behalf, you need to get one fast. One of the greatest benefits of being a member of a fellowship of believers is to have someone you can call and enlist to pray for you. We have people all the time call the church and ask us to start a prayer chain. There has been several times that I would call someone in the church to start a prayer chain on behalf of someone else.

4. Trust God To Give You A Solution To Your Problems.
2 Chronicles 20:15 (NKJV) (15) And he said, "Listen, all you of Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem, and you, King Jehoshaphat! Thus, says the LORD to you: 'Do not be afraid nor dismayed because of this great multitude, for the battle is not yours, but God's.'

"The problem is not mine but God's." This is a lesson every Christian must learn. When you invited Christ into your life, God entered into a covenant relationship with you. He promised to work in your life to bring about a solution to all of your problems and to make you successful. He is saying, "Listen, child of mine. Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this problem for the battle is not yours, but Mine." Our first problem comes when we do not come to God with our problems. Our second one comes when we do not leave our problems.

His solution may not be the solution you expected. Most of us, when we come to God with a problem, have a solution in mind. Many times, the solution God has in mind is a total surprise. The best way to bring your problem to God is not to assist Him with a solution. We must bring Him the problem believing that He has a solution.

God's solution may come to you in a way you are not expecting. God may choose to speak to you directly. He can and will do that at times. Or God may choose to give you a solution through another person. Why didn't God speak directly to Jehoshaphat and give him the solution? He is the King. He is a righteous man. He was seeking to lead the people of God in the right way. God did not choose to speak to him directly. He used a man by the name of Jahaziel. He stood in the midst of the congregation and they all prayed to the Lord for a solution to this tremendous challenge that was before them.

Verse 17 says, You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the Lord will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the Lord will be with you.

A. Position Yourself for what God is about to do.
B. Stand firm in your faith.
C. Watch God Work on your behalf.
D. Don't give in to fear and discouragement.

"You don't need to worry about this problem. Stand firm in your faith. Wait
and watch for the solution to your problem. Do not fear or be discouraged. Go out and face your problem for the Lord is with you.”

Now if God who cares about your every need and is willing to face the problem with you, why on earth do you continue to insist on facing your problems in your own strength? It just does not make sense. God is willing to walk with you and He has the power and ability to give you a solution.

We all have a tendency to try to help God. Mark it down. God does not need our help. He told Jehoshaphat to let the choir lead the way. When the people of God went into battle praising and trusting Him for the victory, they gained a victory they never had to fight for. They did not have to worry about the battle because God was already there.

5. God's Solution Usually Requires An Act Of Faith.

Look at Verse 20. Early the next morning the army of Judah went out into the wilderness of Tekoa. On the way Jehoshaphat stopped and called them to attention. "Listen to me, O people of Judah and Jerusalem," he said. "Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall have success! Believe His prophets, and everything will be all right!"

Let's be honest. Most of us want God to solve the problem without requiring anything of us. God's solution often times requires an act of faith on our part because God's solution is usually beyond human reasoning. If we are going to express faith, it implies a risk on our part. Listen. No risk, no growth. God wants us living by faith. He wants us trusting Him. God says, “I want you to get your choir together.” “Don't you mean the army?” “No, I want you to get your choir together.” “But this is a war!” “I want you to get your choir together and I want you to put the choir out front, and when we get to the battle, we are going to sing and praise.” “Lord, that isn't the way you defeat the Moabites. Lord, you don't defeat trained warriors by singing to them.”

Listen, this is how it is. When God tells you to do something, you either do it or you don't get God's solution. Now suppose Jehoshaphat said, “Lord, we don't mind having a choir. They can stand on the mount and sing while we fight.” That is not what God said. When they got to the battle, the Moabites began to fight the Ammonites. When the Israelites got to the battle, all they had to do was pick up the bounty and loot. The fight was over.

Could it be that God has already given you a solution to your problem and you don't like step one? You have wanted to short cut God’s solution. If God gives you a solution, are you willing to follow it? Are you willing to be obedient to God no matter what He requires? There is no problem God is unwilling to solve if you will be obedient to Him. Yes, sometimes it will require risks. Other times
it will not make sense. It may demand discipline on your part. Are you willing to give God His way in your life or are you so self-centered that you are willing to risk it all. That is what it boils down to.

A. Worship and Praise God:

**2 Chronicles 20:21-23 (NKJV)** (21) And when he had consulted with the people, he appointed those who should sing to the LORD, and who should praise the beauty of holiness, as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the LORD, For His mercy endures forever." (22) Now when they began to sing and to praise, the LORD set ambushes against the people of Ammon, Moab, and Mount Seir, who had come against Judah; and they were defeated. (23) For the people of Ammon and Moab stood up against the inhabitants of Mount Seir to utterly kill and destroy them. And when they had made an end of the inhabitants of Seir, they helped to destroy one another.

6. **Allow God to Give You Peace And Rest Concerning The Problem.**

Look at verses 29-30, The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when they heard how the Lord had fought against the enemies of Israel. And the Kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.

When God solves your problem, it's solved. There is no need for you to continue to struggle with it any longer. He will give you peace concerning your problem. I want you to notice that God did not remove the problem, God conquered the problem, and God defeated the problem. That is the way it is with salvation. You don't save Yourselves; God saves you as you trust in the finished work of the Lord Jesus Christ. When you get saved God doesn't remove the sinful nature that you have, He conquers it. He forgives and cleanses you and I of our sin. All we do is sing praises to Him for the wonderful work He has done on our behalf.

God will handle your problem if you let Him. Don't you think it is time to let go and let God deal with it? Let God give you peace and rest from your problems. You just sing and praise God for He is Worthy.