

Podcast 10

Pat

Hello Ladies, My name is Pat Domangue and I am founder of On Fire Ministries. My daughter, Taylor Draughn who has a Master's Degree in Marriage and Family therapy and counsels in the community, is joining me as we continue on the journey that we are calling our QFW.

Through the last podcast we introduced one of the kings of Judah, who was wholeheartedly following God, Jehoshaphat. We identified that he removed the high places or the places of worship that were where God's people worshipped idols. Basically we identified that an idol is anything that we allow to have a part of our heart or trust in rather than God.

We saw in 2 Chronicles 20:1-12 that Jehoshaphat was facing a battle – a great multitude had come against him and he set himself to fast and pray to God.

Okay Taylor, will you get us started with reading 2 Chronicles 20:15-18?

Taylor

2 Chronicles 20:15-18:

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. **16** Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel. **17** You will not need to fight in this battle. Position yourselves, stand still and see the salvation of the Lord, who is with you, O Judah and Jerusalem!' Do not fear or be dismayed; tomorrow go out against them, for the Lord is with you." **18** And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshiping the Lord.

Pat

The first thing that stands out to me about Jehoshaphat fasting and praying and seeing the Lord respond was that while Jehoshaphat set himself to fast in pray, we seen that he also set himself to listen for the Lord's response.

I think a lot of time we may set ourself to pray over a situation that we are facing and maybe even fast over it, but do we then set ourselves to listen for the Lord's response?

1. Jehoshaphat Listened for God's response. (vs 17)

Sometimes that means you have to wait. – Not this time (urgency) but sometimes you will.

I know I am guilty of not waiting on the Lord's response. Maybe not even giving Him the opportunity to respond before I just move ahead into what I think or what my best friend thinks, or what my husband thinks... I think you get the picture.

Taylor do you think that not waiting or listening for God to speak to us after we have prayed is a real problem for us?

Taylor –

Oh definitely! I will say that I have been the person that has prayed about something and been too impatient to wait for an answer. When you think about this situation, the difficult thing to do is to wait and hear from God about the answer He has for us. It is much simpler for us to get somebody else's opinion and go forward in what we think is right. I know that I have found myself in situations that I wouldn't have been in if I had listened to everybody else, and I simply listened to God. God is not going to take us down a path that we would consider a mistake, but we will often take ourselves down that path. I know my excuse before for not waiting on Him is that I didn't have time to wait. Looking back on that, it was such a silly notion to guide my lack of patience on. The fact is that God would have answered within the time frame I needed if I would have actually stopped and prayed to him.

Pat

So Jehoshaphat listened for the Lord's response and the Lord responded. We ended the last podcast learning that God had said that the battle was not Jehoshaphat's, but the Lord's battle.

Set, Stand, and See the salvation of the Lord.

Sometimes God requires us to **fight** & sometimes He only wants us to **watch** Him **fight** for us.

It's all about the journey with Jesus. It's about relationship. Each time God may require a different action from us but the way we are going to know is if we seek God and hear from him about each situation.

God will never allow our journey with Him to be in predictable steps. Because if He gave us a sequence of how he wanted each and every situation handled, we would handle them on our own. I believe that God insures our continual relationship with Him through allowing us to walk in situations we have no clue what to do. Remember what Jehoshaphat prayed in 2 Chronicles 20:12 – Lord, we have no power against this great multitude that is coming against us; nor do we know what to do, but our eyes are upon you!

I don't think Jehoshaphat could have given a more pleasing statement to the Lord. Talk about total dependence – he fully understood his resources were not enough, but God's resources were enough.

Taylor will you talk about the value of recognizing that we have nothing to bring to the table when we are in a battle except God Himself so our utter reliance on Him is essential.

Taylor

I think as Christians we have to come to the realization that nothing that we can do will be enough in these situations. We have to rely on God. You might be asking then if you should do anything? The answer is unequivocally yes. Just because we don't have the ability to provide everything we need doesn't mean that we don't provide what we can give. Right now, I am preparing to take my licensing exams to become a licensed counselor and licensed marriage and family therapists. Normally when I have a big challenge coming my way I prepare like crazy and worry like crazy. What God has been working on with me with these exams is to prepare as much as possible and then trust in Him. I believe it would be foolish to go into these exams not preparing at all and believing that God would help me pass them. I might pass them like that, but God calls us to put forth our best effort and trust that He will do the rest. Like I said earlier, normally I would worry like crazy, and I have to be honest and say that I have allowed some worry in. But I have so much more confidence that if I do my part then God is going to do His.

Pat

That reminds me of Colossians 3:23-24

And whatever you do, do it heartily, as to the Lord and not to men, knowing that from the Lord you will receive the reward of the inheritance; for you serve the Lord Christ.

Isn't that what we are talking about anyway, receiving from the Lord our inheritance of the spiritual promised land of wholeness.

The fact that Jehoshaphat listened to God – he heard very specific words of encouragement and instructions from God. The first thing he says is fear not and we have already discussed fear a good bit but ultimately we determined that fear is going to come at times but we have to go ahead and face what we fear sometimes. Which is exactly what God told Jehoshaphat to do.. God told him tomorrow go against them. And gave him the promise and encouragement that He would be with Him.

God's promise was His presence through the battle He was sending Jehoshaphat to face. God's promises to us are sure and true. His promises should stir up confidence in us, not confidence in ourselves, but confidence in our God. God demands confidence from us – our confidence in Him, His word, and His work.

How do you think that kind of confidence looks Taylor?

Taylor

Our confidence should first and foremost not be in our abilities or what we are capable of doing, because if that were the case then we probably wouldn't have very much confidence. Our confidence has to be in the Lord and in what He is capable of doing through us. God wants to do a good work in our lives and He wants to use you as part of His plan, but that requires confidence on our part. The fact is that God might sometimes ask us to do things that really don't make much sense in our natural world. I believe that God is going to call me one day to quit a steady full time job to do ministry through therapy and writing. In our natural world, this would not make any sense. To leave a job where I make consistent, good income, but He sometimes calls us to make bold moves. In order for us to make these bold moves, we have to be completely and totally confident that He will provide and take care of us. I believe that there are many women that are listening to this that if I were to ask what is God calling you to; you could answer it but you would have a list of reasons why it wouldn't work. How do I know this? Well I have used that same excuse many times over my life. The fact is that if God is calling you to something whether big or small He will not forsake you, but we must first have confidence in Him before you can complete the task.

Pat

16 Tomorrow go down against them. They will surely come up by the Ascent of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the brook before the Wilderness of Jeruel.

God gives them their enemy's battle plan.

Sometimes God will give us the enemy's battle plan but we have to be seeking Him and keep our focus on Him to get that kind of a clear picture.

A number of years ago, I faced a situation much like this. God gave me a glimpse of the situation before it all came to pass and even showed me how it was going to come about. When God showed me what was on the horizon, I asked Him what He wanted me to do in the midst of what would prove to be one of the hardest seasons of my Christian journey. Betrayal was at the core of the situation and I had a lot riding on what would be taken from me.

God gave me very specific instructions the night I was allowed to see what would not come to pass for another 4 months. I was devastated with the sheer knowledge of what was coming, but as Jehoshaphat said in 2 Chronicles 20:12: I have no power against this enemy coming against me, nor do I know what to do, but my eyes are on you.

That night I spent awake and seeking God's guidance through what was to come. The words He spoke to me were not easy words.

Here is what God spoke to me from His word that night:

The fear of the Lord is the instruction of wisdom, And before honor is humility. (Proverbs 15:33)
Seek the Lord, all you meek of the earth, Who have upheld His justice. Seek righteousness, seek **humility**. It may be that you will be hidden In the day of the Lord's anger. Zephaniah 2:3

Therefore, as the elect of God, holy and beloved, put on tender mercies, kindness, **humility**, meekness, longsuffering; Colossians 3:12

to speak evil of no one, to be peaceable, gentle, showing all **humility** to all men. Titus 3:2

Likewise you younger people, submit yourselves to your elders. Yes, all of you be submissive to one another, and be clothed with **humility**, for "God resists the proud, But gives grace to the humble." 1 Peter 5:5

* You see, I was afraid of what man was going to do to me, but God called me to ignore that fear. But more than that He seemed to shout the one word from the page, humility.

This was by far the hardest thing He could have said to me. I wanted to fight. I wanted to defend myself and my cause, but God called me to walk in humility through that season and trial. It was not easy, but obeying His words to me were the only way I felt I could respond and be confident of His protection and covering through that time and I knew I needed that above everything else!

Talk about Jehoshaphat's response to God and His instruction:

2 Chr. 20:18-21

And Jehoshaphat bowed his head with his face to the ground, and all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem bowed before the Lord, worshiping the Lord. **19** Then the Levites of the children of the Kohathites and of the children of the Korahites stood up to praise the Lord God of Israel with voices loud and high. **20** So they rose early in the morning and went out into the Wilderness of Tekoa; and as they went out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Hear me, O Judah and you inhabitants of Jerusalem: Believe in the Lord your God, and you shall be established; believe His prophets, and you shall prosper." **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."

They had sought the Lord, called on the Lord, and heard from the Lord. So Taylor, what next?

Taylor

2. Respond with **perfect worship**. So how do we have perfect worship?

- a. Perfect worship comes from the understanding of who we are and who He is. In 2 Chronicles 20:12, it states “Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you”.
- b. So they admitted to the fact that they had no idea what to do, and I believe that is a place that we need to get to as Christ followers. If we want to live a life that is marked by God moving and working, we have to be able to back off and let God do what He needs to do.
- c. They also realized who God is, and He was the God that they turned to and placed their eyes on even when the situation seemed impossible. They realized that God was in the business of doing impossible things.
- d. Another aspect to their perfect worship is that they all worshipped the way they believe God called them to worship. So you see some of them bowing down and some people standing and praising Him loud. The fact is that it doesn't matter how we worship as long as it is how God has called you to worship Him.

I believe this can so often be a stumbling block for us as Christians because one group believes you should worship one way and another group another way. But what you will find in scripture is that God's people worshiped in many different ways and they were all accepted as “good worship” by God. Worship was never meant to be about us; it is about our God and how He calls us to worship Him.

Pat

What was required on the day of battle? (Each is still a response of perfect worship.)

- 1) **Obedience** – They **went**. (vs.20) – I feel like a lot of times we really don't even like the word, obedience. Sometimes because it is like my personal situation I shared with you, God asks us to do the thing that is the hardest thing for us to do.

Taylor, you and I talked about this earlier and you said that the word obedience has such a negative connotation in our day and time, because of our society and culture. Will you share with us a little more about that?

Taylor

Yeah, in my opinion, obedience has such a negative connotation in our world because us as humans have messed up something that God meant for our good. For many people, when they think of obedience they think of a man lording over his wife or maybe a puppet that does whatever his master wants when his strings are pulled. These are all images that we have because us as humans have used obedience in a way that was never supposed to be used. When you look at Jehoshaphat, they were obedience because they loved the Lord and knew He loved them and they knew that he would come through for them. When we look at obedience towards our God in this light, it makes being obedient much easier and it really becomes the most logical choice in how to respond to situations.

Pat –

So looking back at Jehoshaphat, we see that God had given him and His people instructions to go and they went. Jehoshaphat as their king and leader instructed Israel to:

2) **Believe** in God and His word (vs.20)

- **Jehosophat stops and tell them to do 2 things**
 - i. Believe in the Lord so that you will be established
 - ii. Believe His prophets so you shall prosper

2Thes. 3:3 - But the Lord is faithful to establish you and guard you from the evil one.

When we face a battle of our own, we must hold on to our belief in God and His word above our circumstances. God's words shouts the same message to us throughout His word. Ephesians 6:16
6above all, taking the shield of faith with which you will be able to quench all the fiery darts of the wicked one.

Then Jehoshaphat appoints people to go before the army and sing praise to the Lord and **Praise** the beauty of holiness (vs.21).

Jehoshaphat also instructed them to praise the beauty of holiness. I looked up the original language of those word "praise the beauty of holiness." If I replace those English word with the original Hebrew meaning the phrase "praise the beauty of holiness" would be:

"Boast in the adornment of set-apartness" (Isaiah 61:10)

10 I will greatly rejoice in the Lord, My soul shall be joyful in my God; For He has clothed me with the garments of salvation, He has covered me with the robe of righteousness, As a bridegroom decks himself with ornaments, And as a bride adorns herself with her jewels. Isaiah 61:10

There is power in our praise when we praise God for what He has done for us and how He has clothed us in His salvation and righteousness. Because we would have neither apart from Him.

Taylor

How wonderful is that through Him we have salvation and righteousness! It makes us want to praise Him, but that doesn't mean that there aren't times when praising Him is not the easiest thing to do. It is difficult to praise Him when we have a family member pass or have just found out about a terrible diagnosis or have a child that has strayed far from you and the Lord. In those times, it is easy to question why you should praise God. So why should we praise God when times are tough? The one main reason for me is that praise keeps your focus on God and not on your situation. Remember we have talked about Peter in the sea and how when he took his eyes off of God that is when he began to sink. I also believe that praise in and of itself can change how you see things when you go through a trial. When you praise God for who He is and his blessings that he has given you, then negative is not as prevalent in your mind. If when times got tough, you were to remind yourself of five blessings that you have in your life right now then the difficult times would not have as much power over your mind. It is not always easy to praise Him but I believe that in every situation it is your best course of action.

Pat

Why is praise set out in front of the army?

- Psalm 22:3 says But You are holy, Enthroned in the praises of Israel.
- Psalm 100:4 says Enter into His gates with thanksgiving, And into His courts with praise.
- Psalm 92:13 says Those who are planted in the house of the LORD Shall flourish in the courts of our God.

There is power in the praises of God's people because He is enthroned in their praises. We enter into His courts and His presence through our praises and there we flourish.

2 Chronicles 20:21 says "as they went out before the army and were saying: "Praise the Lord, For His mercy endures forever.""

The original language for the word praise there is "*Yadah*" – *to throw, to shoot (arrows), cast down, throw down, give thanks, laud, praise, confess(the name of God)*

Remember that God is enthroned in the praises of His people and the original language indicates an action happening such as shooting arrows.

Listen carefully to Psalm 7:11-13 and hear how this all ties together.

Psalm 7:11-13 ¹¹ God *is* a just judge, And God is angry *with the wicked* every day. ¹² If he does not turn back, He will sharpen His sword; He bends His bow and makes it ready. ¹³ He also prepares for Himself instruments of death; He makes His arrows into fiery shafts.

This really is incredible! When we praise God, He is enthroned in our praises and shoots arrows at our enemies!!!! Exactly what happens in Jehoshaphat's story.

2 Chronicles 20:22-24

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. **24** So when Judah came to a place overlooking the wilderness, they looked toward the multitude; and there were their dead bodies, fallen on the earth. No one had escaped.

When they began to sing and to **praise**, the Lord set up **ambushes**. **None** escaped.

And that's the power of our praise!

Well ladies, let's live lives in a posture of perfect worship, praising our God even in, or maybe I should say, especially in our most difficult circumstances!

I want to remind you to contact us through the web-site at www.onfire-ministries.org. Much love and blessings until we meet again.