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**January 7, 2025**

**Led by Mary Lowman**

**2 Chronicles 20:1-4**

After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat. Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, "A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Seas. It is already in En Gedi." Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the Lord, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah. The people of Judah came together to seek help from the Lord; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

Jehoshaphat didn't inquire of people or counselors or advisers. He inquired of the Lord. Where have you been running for answers as you face your impossible situation?

**2 Chronicles 20:5-12**

Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the Lord in the front of the new courtyard **6**and said:

“Lord, the God of our ancestors, 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. **7**Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend? **8**They have lived in it and have built in it a sanctuary for your Name, saying, **9**‘If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’

**10**“But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them. **11**See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance. **12**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.”

Jehoshaphat's response to this terrible event coming his way gives us some extremely important principles that will work for us when we don’t know what to do.

Seven R’s that tell us what to do when we don’t know what to do:

1**. R** who God is

**Verse 6**: *Lord, the God of our ancestors, 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.*

2. **R** God’s great works

**Verse 7:** *Our God, did you not drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your friend?*

3. **R** God’s promises

**Verse 9:** *If calamity comes upon us, whether the sword of judgment, or plague or famine, we will stand in your presence before this temple that bears your Name and will cry out to you in our distress, and you will hear us and save us.’*

4. **R** the problem to God

**Verse 10 – 12a**: *But now here are men from Ammon, Moab and Mount Seir, whose territory you would not allow Israel to invade when they came from Egypt; so they turned away from them and did not destroy them.****11****See how they are repaying us by coming to drive us out of the possession you gave us as an inheritance.****12****Our God, will you not judge them? For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us."*

5. **R** the problem to God

 **Verse 12b**: "We do not know what to do, but our eyes are upon you."

6. **R** in God’s salvation

After Jehoshaphat’s prayer, a prophet, Jahaziel, rose up and said:

**Verses 15 – 17**: *“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.”*

The next day, as they sat out to face this impossible enemy, Jehoshaphat again said to them:
**Verses 20 – 21**: *“Listen to me, 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.”*

Our weapons are not like the world’s:

**2 Corinthians 10:3 - 5**

*For though we live in the world, we do not wage war as the world does.****4****The weapons we fight with are not the weapons of the world. On the contrary, they have divine power to demolish strongholds.****5****We demolish arguments and every pretension that sets itself up against the knowledge of God, and we take captive every thought to make it obedient to Christ.*

There's one more “R” that results when you follow God’s plan:

7. **R** in the Lord

**Verse 30**: *And the kingdom of Jehoshaphat was at peace, for his God had given him rest on every side.*

**Psalm 37:7**: *Rest in the Lord, and wait patiently for Him; do not fret because of him who prospers in his way, because of the man who brings wicked schemes to pass.*