

## Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> September – Sermon Notes 'Trust God to Fight Your Battles'

The words from the 1662 Prayer Book: 'For there is none other that fighteth for us but only Thou O Lord' remind us of the place of trusting God to fight our battles for us.

Read the account of King Jehoshaphat (2 Chronicles 19:4 – 20:1-30).

King Jehoshaphat of the southern Kingdom of Judah didn't get everything right (he made some unwise choices in the alliances he struck up) but in the main he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord. When facing immense pressure he turned to God for deliverance.

- Share an occasion when you have been forced to lean on the Lord because the situation you have been facing is too big for you to handle. How did God deliver you?
- Notice Jehoshaphat's **first response** when news of this vast army reached him (2 Chron 20:3, 4). What might be our first response?
- Notice how the coming together involved all ages in the community (v4, 13). What does that suggest about the intergenerational nature of church?
- What do you notice about the content and structure of Jehoshaphat's prayer (v6-12)?

The prophetic word given in response to his prayer by Jahaziel (v14-17) must have been very reassuring.

- How might that encourage you today in the battles you face?

Notice the place of singing God's praises in this situation (v19-22); 'As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes..' v22.

- What does that suggest about the place of praising God which releases his power. Can you think of other occasions in scripture when praise led to demonstrations of power?

To sing songs of praise and worship is often the most important and necessary thing to do but also the most difficult especially when everything seems to be against us and it is the very last thing we feel like doing.

- Share together ideas of how you can keep praise going when it is most difficult.
- Do we get stressed by trying to fight our own battles or do we trust God to fight our battles for us (v29)?

How does this episode encourage us to recognise the spiritual battle being waged over our nation today and its impact of brokenness in society? What does the Lord require of us in playing our part in prayer for a spiritual revival?

Spend some time waiting on the Lord and listening to what he is saying to you.

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