

Notes on Sermon Delivered by Jesse Ainebyoona at All Saints Cathedral on 29th July 2018

Background:

Past Sundays:

Flowing in Divine deliverance

God's promise on Deliverance

Christ makes everything new

Christ can set you free

Today's Theme: Destined for Victory

Reference: 2 Chronicles 20

Saul- David- Solomon- Rehoboam- Abijah- Asa- Jehoshaphat.

Who's Jehoshaphat? Recast and Retell his background

Division 1- Jehoshaphat & Judah receive news of the attack from Moab & seek God. (V1-13)

We all face seasons when we feel under attack/ receive a negative report eg Family, career, marriage, parenting, education, medical report, job. Your thorn in the flesh.

Children: when your friends tell you that they dont like you, or that you're not their friend, or that you dont measure up, or a situation at home

Everyone you meet is at 3 phases either they're going through a challenge, or you've just come out of one, or you're just about to go through one.

Life is all about overcoming challenges.

How do we gain victory when going through such seasons.

Challenges are opportunities to seek God and experience his faithfulness

Challenges test our faith and we realise our strength when tested.

Sometimes we're like tea bags, we don't realise how strong you're until you're in hot water

Sometimes God brings our needs through what looks like challenges

The Poem

'I asked for strength and God gave me difficulties to make me strong.

I asked for wisdom and God gave me problems to solve.

I asked for courage and God gave me dangers to overcome.

I asked for patience and God placed me in situations where I was forced to wait.

I asked for love and God gave me troubled people to help.

I asked for favors and God gave me opportunities.

I received nothing I wanted, I received everything I needed'

When we go through such situations, remember that God knows it, He is with you in the midst of it and He wants to bring good out of your pain.

Rom 8:28-29- And we know that in all things God works for the good of those who love him, who[a] have been called according to his purpose.

For those God foreknew He also predestined to be conformed to the image of His Son, that He might be the firstborn among many brothers and sisters.

This scripture is for those who love God.

The good that it talks about is not physical and material good but conformity to the image and likeness of Jesus Christ.

He knows my name:

He knows my name
He knows my every thought
He sees each tear that falls
And He hears me when I call

James 1:2-3

Consider it pure joy, my brothers and sisters, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance

Being a christian does not shield from such attacks.

It wont be smooth and its not meant to be.

If you think you're following Jesus & the going is smooth, check again and see that the person you're following is actually Jesus.

Jesus learnt obedience from what he suffered

Jn 16: 33 In this world you will have trouble. But take heart! I have overcome the world."

The disciples experienced a storm when they were with Jesus
(Matt 8: 23-27)

With Jesus in my life, i can smile at the storm...

He was terrified but he inquired of the Lord and committed the situation to Him. He did not first try to fix the problem on his own. He went first to God.

Where do we turn to?

We need to guard against the temptation of trusting other people or relying on our own resources

Psalm 20:7 -Some trust in chariots and some in horses, but we trust in the name of the Lord our God.

Isaih 31:1 -Woe to those who go down to Egypt for help, who rely on horses who trust in the multitude of their chariots and in the great strength of their horsemen, but do not look to the Holy One of Israel, or seek help from the Lord.

Prov 29:26 Many seek an audience & favour with a ruler, but it is from the LORD that one gets justice.

How did Jehoshaphat & Judah respond?

1. He did not deny the magnitude of the problem (He was honest with God about how he felt)

He was terrified. V3

Mark 9- The man whose son had an evil spirit and he came to Jesus.. if you can, heal my son

You cant control what you refuse to confront.

2. He did not focus on the magnitude of the problem but the magnitude of His God. V6. His power and might. (Before you tell God how big your problem is, tell your problem how big your God is)

What you focus on grows. When you focus on the problem- it seems bigger tgan it actually is and when you focus on God, your faith grows.

3. He recognised that he had no power of his own. V12

He acknowledged that only God could save the nation.

John 15:5 I am the vine; you are the branches. If you remain in me and I in you, you will bear much fruit; apart from me you can do nothing.

Recognise your human limitations and allow God's strength to work through our fears and weaknesses

4. He recognised what God had done in the past. V7. what God has done in the past, gives us strength for today and hope for tomorrow (God is our help in ages past and our hope for years to come)

The testimony of my O level suspension and academic struggle and how God granted me success

5. He led his kingdom in waiting upon God. V13(Active waiting vs Passive waiting)

The analogy of a waiter

Blessed assurance..... watching and waiting looking above...

Lesson 1- Believers are to trust God to fight their battles and to sustain them.

Applications

Which battles are you currently facing & where have you put your trust?

Are you trusting God to fight your battles or you're trusting and hoping in someone or something else.

(Focus entirely on God's power not your own because those who put their trust in God will not be put to shame)

Not that you shouldn't have a plan and strategy but first seek God.

Easy to complain and tell others yet we've not prayed

The testimony of Diana's pain...

Division 2- God intervenes and grants Jehoshaphat and Judah victory over their enemies (V14-30)

God responds when we pray eg:

-When Haman threatened the Jews The book of Esther

-When Peter was in jail Acts 12

-Paul and Silas Acts 16: 16-40

Psalm 34: 15-16

15-The eyes of the Lord are on the righteous,
and his ears are attentive to their cry;

16-but the face of the Lord is against those who do evil, to blot out their name
from the earth.

-God is attentive to the cries of his children (you must be his child- Jn 1:12)

Prayer Terms and Conditions apply:

Isaiah 59:2 But your iniquities have separated you from your God; your sins have
hidden his face from you, so that he will not hear.

1 Peter 3:7 Husbands, be considerate as you live with your wives, and treat them
with respect so that nothing will hinder your prayers.

Prayer shows our dependency on God not yourself.

A Prayerful Person is a Powerful Person and a prayerless person is a powerless
person.

The spirit of the Lord came upon Jahaziel and God spoke.

As believers, we have God's spirit in us. (How sensitive are you to the leading of
the Holyspirit?)

When we speak to God, we should also listen to Him

We do not only pray for God to hear us but also for us to hear him. Take time to listen to God after you've spoken to him.

Prayer is communication with God (to & fro)

Speak Lord, your servant is listening

Pray- Listen to instruction- walk in Trust & Obedience to what God has said

Sometimes the instructions wont make sense logically.. walk by faith not by sight

The testimony of the man who was doing medical supplies..

Overcome fear with faith- Dont be afraid, dont be discouraged for the battle is not yours but God's. Stand firm and you'll see God's deliverance

2 Chron 20:17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you."

Exodus 14:13 Moses answered the people, "Do not be afraid. Stand firm and you will see the deliverance the LORD will bring you today. The Egyptians you see today you will never see again.

Be still= stay calm= hold your peace

Be at Peace and trust God. (Find a scripture that you can stand on)

Peace is not the absence of storms but the presence of God in the midst of the storm.

The pic of the bird calm in a hiding place in the cleft of a rock in the midst of a storm

-God fights our battles in His own way not ours. He's sovreign.

Sometimes we don't allow God to fight our battles because we want to fight them on our own.

Let Go and Let God

-He works in ways we cannot see.

-He's God Trust Him

Lesson 2- God fights for his people but demands full loyalty to Him

Applications

-How are you waiting upon the Lord...

Blessed assurance... watching & waiting looking above...

-Which promises will you stand firm upon

- How loyal and committed are you to him. God is attentive to the cries of his children. How is your relationship with God,

is it True/Authentic or Circumstantial/Transactional

Are you doing religion or its a true relationship (A christian rooted in Christ, Growing faith and abounding in fruitfulness

God demands Full loyalty not partial or half hearted commitment. King David vs Saul

Your faith will be tested for authenticity

Are you a child of God? Jn 1:12

Conclusion

Let's make a choice to put your trust in God who fights our battles and grants us victory