



Going Wrong When You're Living Right

By Taylor Braswell on April 1, 2024

TODAY'S READING: 2 Chronicles 20

You are a good person with a good heart and God looked at you and decided to save you because you could offer something good to Him! April fools! You are a sinful wretch undeserving of God, and in His grace and mercy, He saved you for His own glory. Now that this is out of the way, let's get into the text.

Jehoshaphat was king of Judah and was a righteous king seeking to honor God. Unlike some other kings, Jehoshaphat was not leading God's people to follow false gods. 2 Chronicles 17:3-4 says, *"The Lord was with Jehoshaphat, because he walked in the earlier ways of his father David. He did not seek the Baals, but sought the God of his father and walked in his commandments, and not according to the practices of Israel."* (David is not literally his father.) During this time period, Israel and Judah are split into different kingdoms because God was judging Israel.

Notice that even though Jehoshaphat was living for God, he still faced trials. Other nations had teamed up to destroy Judah. I want to focus on three ways Jehoshaphat responded to the situation:

1. Verse 3 says he sought the Lord and pointed others to seek God! When you face trials, do you see it as an opportunity to become more like Christ and point others to Him?
2. In verses 5-12, he praised God for all He had done in the past and prayed in front of others. God wants us to pray and praise Him instead of worrying!
3. After hearing God's Word in verses 13-17, Jehoshaphat worshipped God and led others to praise God. When we study God's Word our response should always be praise and worship.

When the nations ended up attacking Judah, they wiped each other out and Judah was spared. Even when we feel like we are living the right way, life can feel like it is going wrong. When trials come, we may not always be spared from the sickness or bad situation we are in. God uses trials to make us more like Christ and to bring himself glory. God has spared us from His wrath by putting it on Christ on the cross.

PRAYER: Father, thank you for making me more like Christ even in the midst of circumstances I do not like. By Your Spirit, empower me to respond to everything with praise and worship and use me to be an example to others like Jehoshaphat.

TOMORROW'S READING: Ezra 9

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