

JCI #172 May 2016

Just Checking In - 2 Chronicles 20:1-27

Turn your eyes upon Jesus

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2 Chronicles 20:12 **O 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 upon you**." 13 All the men of Judah, with their wives and children and little ones, stood there before the LORD. 14 Then the Spirit of the LORD came upon Jahaziel son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite and descendant of Asaph, as he stood in the assembly. 15 He said: "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: **'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.**

King Jehoshaphat of Judah was facing the worst moment of his life as a vast army of enemy soldiers was but hours away from the city of Jerusalem. Jehoshaphat was a believer in the true God, and also a realist about his own capacities. He knew what he couldn't do, and He knew Who could! His prayer is one of the most wonderful to be found in the Bible. Let's take heart as we walk with him through discouragement and near despair in his circumstances into triumphant hope and confidence in his God.

**"O our God...
we have no power...
we do not know what to do...
our eyes are upon you..."**

Confession of Faith... "O our God"

In his brief prayer, Jehoshaphat cried out to God as "Jehovah... God of our fathers... God in heaven... our God..." The king knew His King! The king bowed his heart, his knees, his will before the King of heaven. The beginning of God glorifying prayer is submission and confession.

Confession of Weakness... "we have no power"

This is not exaggeration! In the face of this vast enemy, he was truly without power and therefore without hope in himself. Self-confidence is nothing but arrogant foolishness. God often brings storms in our lives so that we recognize our own inability to go on except by His divine intervention. Whether storms of enemy soldiers, storms on Galilee, storms of difficulty physically, mentally, emotionally, relationally, financially... they all demonstrate our own inability to withstand the storm unless God intervenes.

Confession of Confusion... "we do not know what to do"

Admission of ignorance is honest humility. Jehoshaphat had no plan. He was completely clueless about what to do. We have no power and we have no plan and we couldn't pull it off even if we had a plan. This is the recognition of our own complete, utter, and absolute inability to handle what has come to us on our own. Again, this is not exaggeration. It is reality. If we don't see our insufficiency, we will not seek His over-sufficiency.

Confession of Dependence... "but our eyes are upon you"

It is when we see, really see and recognize

Our enemies' power,

Our own powerlessness,

Our own ignorance, and

Our God's sufficiency...

Then, and only then, we are ready to turn our eyes heavenward and wait on Him.

The king looked upon the enemy, (fear)

he looked in the mirror, (failure)

and then he looked to His God. (faith)

Our eyes are upon you! He wasn't looking for an escape, he was looking for God to work. The desperate situation coupled with desperate weakness brought about desperate dependence on God!

Promise of Deliverance... "The battle is not yours, but Gods."

God sends His message through the Levite Jahaziel... "Listen, King Jehoshaphat and all who live in Judah and Jerusalem! This is what the LORD says to you: ***'Do not be afraid or discouraged because of this vast army. For the battle is not yours, but God's.*** 16 Tomorrow march down against them. They will be climbing up by the Pass of Ziz, and you will find them at the end of the gorge in the Desert of Jeruel.17 You will not have to fight this battle. Take up your positions; ***stand firm and see the deliverance the LORD will give you, O Judah and Jerusalem. Do not be afraid; do not be discouraged. Go out to face them tomorrow, and the LORD will be with you.***"

God is pleased to deliver His dependent, obedient, yielded people for His glory. And God did deliver them in such a way that only God could get the glory.

2Ch 20:29 The fear of God came upon all the kingdoms of the countries when ***they heard how the LORD had fought*** against the enemies of Israel.

Let us flee self-sufficiency and self-confidence and learn to turn our eyes continually to our God and follow in obedience as He unfolds the way before us.

Turn Your Eyes upon Jesus

Helen H. Lemmel, 1922

Oh soul are you weary and troubled?
No light in the darkness to see
There's a light for a look at the Savior
And life more abundant and free

Through death into life everlasting
He passed, and we follow Him there;
O'er us sin no more hath dominion—
For more than conquerors we are!

His word shall not fail you, He promised
Believe Him and all will be well
Then go to a world that is dying
His perfect salvation to tell

Turn your eyes upon Jesus
Look full in His wonderful face
And the things of Earth will grow strangely dim
In the light of His glory and grace

Self-check

- 1) When was the last time you recognized your own insufficiency and turned your eyes on Jesus in full submission and confidence?
- 2) What “storm” did God bring your way to bring you to that point of desperate dependence?
- 3) How did He show Himself faithful to you as you looked to Him?

For Further Study:

Look up the various verses that have the words “eyes”, “look”, “looking” in the Bible. Make a list of your favorites and memorize them.

“Lord, I confess that too often I look at the circumstances of life and am distressed, or I look at my own weakness and am depressed. Cause me to look to you and find joy and peace and victory, for only in your presence is there fullness of joy. Lord Jesus, I turn my eyes to you. Fill my focused heart with Your fullness. In Your matchless Name, Amen.”

Remember, you are very special to us and we pray for you.

Living with leaving in view.... John 9:4

Ron& Val

Seeing The Invisible, embracing The Unapproachable, declaring The Unexplainable,
changed by The Immutable, running after The Irresistible
with inexhaustible joy in our inexpressible sorrows,
spending our time on eternity,
owning nothing yet possessing everything
that matters and lasts.
We are Pilgrims in Paradox.
Welcome to THE JOURNEY