

PENTECOST METHODIST CHURCH

LIVE-IT-OUT GUIDE

Sermon Date: 27/09/2020

Text(s): 2 Chronicles 20:1–19

Sermon Title: Our Eyes Are Upon You

Preacher: Rev Don Wong

(The sermon recording is available in the PMC website and MyPMC App)

READ (5 mins)

2 Chronicles 20:1–19 (NIV84)

1 After this, the Moabites and Ammonites with some of the Meunites came to make war on Jehoshaphat.

2 Some men came and told Jehoshaphat, “A vast army is coming against you from Edom, from the other side of the Sea. It is already in Hazazon Tamar” (that is, En Gedi).

3 Alarmed, Jehoshaphat resolved to inquire of the LORD, and he proclaimed a fast for all Judah.

4 The people of Judah came together to seek help from the LORD; indeed, they came from every town in Judah to seek him.

5 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: “O LORD, God of our fathers, 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 O 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 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.

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.' ”

18 Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the LORD.

19 Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the LORD, the God of Israel, with very loud voice.

RELATE (30 mins)

(Relate to what was shared and on key themes in the sermon)

- 1. The preacher went to prison a total of 9 times and served a total of 12 years. He made this statement: If you were to ask those who have been to prison 3 times or more if they want to change, they will likely say they yes. But the question is, how to change? Are you able to relate to this? Was there an area you wanted to change but did not know how? Is there one thing you want to change now but just don't know how to go about it?**
- 2. Whatever area we want to change, whether it is a bad habit or an area we want to improve in, what do you think are some important factors that must come together before change can happen? The preacher mentioned his time in a halfway house as the beginning of his transformation. What do you remember about his sharing on his journey from prison to pastor? Can we learn a few things from this?**
- 3. In the Bible passage selected for the sermon, King Jehoshaphat was facing a vast army. Trying to change can be about facing an external enemy that is trying very hard to stop you from changing. Now, Jehoshaphat is facing several external enemies that have ganged up against him. What did Jehoshaphat do in response to this threat? What can we do when faced by external threats upon our spiritual well-being?**

REFLECT (30 mins)

(Reflect and apply God's word to our daily lives)

1. **The preacher summed up Jehoshaphat's inquiring of the Lord and calling for a fast as placing God first and at the centre of our lives. What does it mean to place God first in our lives? What does it mean to put God at the centre of our lives?**

2. **The final point shared was to pray that God would shorten or quicken the time. This is seen in how quickly the Lord resolved the matter for Jehoshaphat by causing the enemies to destroy one another. Are you able to embrace this principle by faith? Or do you feel that we must always expect to go through extended time of pain before victory comes?**

REST (15 mins)

(Take time to share and pray for one another)

(Pray for our church, our nation, and our world. See MyPMC > PRAY for weekly guide)

- Pray to the Lord to help us fix our eyes on Jesus and to place God first in our lives. Pray for the grace to make God the centre of our lives.

- Pray for our church to be a community that reflects the priorities of the Kingdom of God, one that knows the Word and the Heart of God.

- Pray for the churches in Singapore to have a stronger witness in Singapore and beyond in the days to come.