

# Weakness | Leading Through Uncertainty

2 Chronicles 20:1-23

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I. Everyone is feeling a bit of uncertainty about something.

II. Leading through Uncertainty (2 Chronicles 20:1-23)

*Jehoshaphat lived at Jerusalem. And he went out again among the people, from Beersheba to the hill country of Ephraim, and brought them back to the Lord, the God of their fathers.*

—2 Chronicles 19:4

*After this the Moabites and Ammonites, and with them some of the Meunites, came against Jehoshaphat for battle.*

—2 Chronicles 20:1

a. God isn't bashful about having His people face uncertainty. (20:1-2)

*Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord*

—2 Chronicles 20:3

b. Uncertainty will either result in paralyzing fear or prayerful dependence. (20:3a; Ps. 20:7)

*and said, "O Lord, God of our fathers, are you not God in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. In your hand are power and might, so that none is able to withstand you. 7Did you not, our God, drive out the inhabitants of this land before your people Israel, and give it forever to the descendants of Abraham your*

*friend? 8And they have lived in it and have built for you in it a sanctuary for your name, saying, 9'If disaster comes upon us, the sword, judgment, or pestilence, or famine, we will stand before this house and before you—for your name is in this house—and cry out to you in our affliction, and you will hear and save.'*

—2 Chronicles 20:6-9

c. Times of uncertainty provide some of the greatest opportunities to influence others. (20:3b-13; 18)

*Then Jehoshaphat was afraid and set his face to seek the Lord, and proclaimed a fast throughout all Judah. 4And Judah assembled to seek help from the Lord; from all the cities of Judah they came to seek the Lord.*

—2 Chronicles 20:3-4

*And now behold, the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir, whom you would not let Israel invade when they came from the land of Egypt, and whom they avoided and did not destroy— 11behold, they reward us by coming to drive us out of your possession, which you have given us to inherit. 12O our God, will you not execute judgment on them? For we are powerless against this great horde that is coming against us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."*

—2 Chronicles 20:10-12

*Meanwhile all Judah stood before the Lord, with their little ones, their wives, and their children.*

—2 Chronicles 20:13

*And he said, "Listen, all Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem and King Jehoshaphat: Thus says the Lord to you, 'Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed at this great horde, for the battle is not yours but God's. 16Tomorrow go down against them. Behold, they will come up by the ascent of Ziz. You will find them at the end of the valley, east of the wilderness of Jeruel. 17You*

*will not need to fight in this battle. Stand firm, hold your position, and see the salvation of the Lord on your behalf, O Judah and Jerusalem.' Do not be afraid and do not be dismayed. Tomorrow go out against them, and the Lord will be with you.*

—2 Chronicles 20:15-17

*"Hear me, Judah and inhabitants of Jerusalem! Believe in the Lord your God, and you will be established; believe his prophets, and you will succeed."*

—2 Chronicles 20:20b

### **III. Trust God and do the next thing. (2 Chronicles 20:14-23)**

#### **Study Questions**

1. It's very likely that everyone is feeling uncertain about something. What is it for you? Take a few minutes to identify those things that are leaving you feeling restless and unsure. Also, share your typical approach to dealing w/ such uncertainty. Be specific.

2. Read 2 Chronicles 20:1-23. Spend some time observing King Jehoshaphat's response to the news of these foreign nations coming to attack. Put yourself in his shoes. Based on your own history, how might you have responded to such news? Also, notice how he led the nation in their response. What most stands out to you about his leadership? Also, what challenges do you think he might have had to overcome to ensure that he led well through such uncertainty? Explain.

3. As Christ-followers, we can sometimes grow bitter and confused when God allows us to walk through difficult seasons. Why is this our tendency? In other words, what bad theology might we be believing if such seasons lead us down this path. Read 1 Peter 4:12-19. What insight does Peter offer us about encountering and enduring trials? Talk about how a correct view of trials might help us better navigate those seasons that leave us confused and uncertain.

4. As we conclude our series (Weakness: A Spiritual Leader's Greatest Strength), consider some lessons you've learned. Share with your

group any way that your thinking has changed about the value of acknowledging your weakness and declaring your dependence on God. Also, how have these lessons changed the way you desire to lead going forward? Explain.