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McInteer Sermon Outlines - Chronicles, 2

Jim Bill McInteer

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THE PERFECT COMBO FOR GROWTH

II Chron. 1:1-6

I. Finally, in everything we get back to Square 1.

A. There is a basic fundamental that makes every organization functional.

B. The superstructure must rest on a solid fd., else it falls.

C. What is most basic to this church to guarantee its abilities to function?

II. For our answer, we go to the actions of the world's wisest man - we tear a sheet from Solomon's operational manual.

A. It's timeless.

B. It's the basic two.

C. Let's see if we can find that which keeps us where we ought to be.

III. Solomon & the Perfect Combo.

A. The man.

1. Name means Peace - same as Frederick. Also called Jedidiah (beloved of the Lord).

2. Reigned 40 years.

3. Was 3rd King of United K.

4. Was his father's choice.

a.) 10th son.

b.) 2nd of Bathsheba.

5. Had a great beginning - we can survive otherwise but blessed if we have it.

I Chron. 29:23 "Then Solomon sat on the throne of the

a.) 2nd year of reign.

b.) Zadok officiated.

I Chron. 16:39 "And Zadok the priest, and his brethren

c.) Son of illustrious father. All David could convey was done.

d.) We have a heritage from those that go before.

e.) Each person has some personal advantage.

B. The Combination.

1. "Was strengthened in his Kingdom."

a.) 15X used in Chron.

b.) Idea of a person who exerts himself & does all that lies in him to nerve himself with strength for any object.

2 Thess. 3:16 "Now the Lord of peace himself give ye

c.) Do we so exercise ourselves to our full ability & determined steadfastness.

2. "The Lord his God was with him."

a.) Had the presence of the Lord.

b.) Means his help of companionship, sure sympathy, needed counsel, strength in temptation - whole circle of human need God will provide.

Phil. 4:19 "But my God shall supply all your need according to

c.) All he sought for was in the scope of God's fellowship.

Gen. 21:22 "And it came to pass at that time, that Abraham

Gen. 39:2 "And the Lord was with Joseph and he was

1 Sam. 18:14 "And David behaved himself wisely in all his ways

C. He demonstrated this conviction.

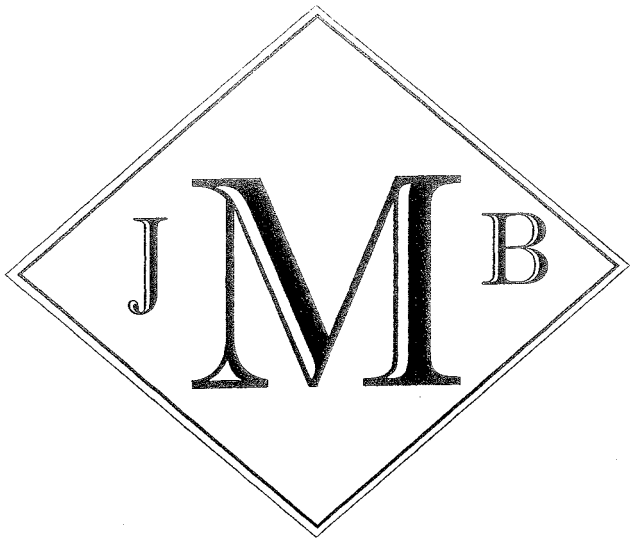
1. Spoke to all Israel.

a.) Captains of thousands & of hundreds.

b.) Judges.

c.) Governors (5 names: chiefs, prince, captain, ruler, governor used).

- d.) Chief of fathers.
2. Took all the congregation c him to worship.
- a.) Gibeon 5 miles NW of Jerusalem.
- b.) Moses honored as old time servant.
- c.) Ark at Jerusalem & altar at Gibeon.
- (1) Obedience & sacrifice.
- (2) Worship to end in obedience.
- (3) Do we put distance between obedience & worship.
- (4) Worship should end in obedience.
- d.) Unashamed of his religion - before all congreg
- e.) Are our friends among those who want to worshi
- f.) Extraordinary size sacrifice - 1000 burnt offerings. Was equal to magnitude of assembly
- D. What happened? "God did magnify him exceedingly."
1. Magnify = to make grow.
2. If we duplicate & act promptly & properly, will it happen to us?
3. "In that night" God appeared - we can expect an immediate reaction!
4. Do I exemplify the combo.



AND WHAT WOULD MY REQUEST BE?

II Chronicles 1:7-13

I. It was a tremendous beginning for Solomon.

A. Events of reverence at Gibeon.

1. Tabernacle
2. Ark
3. Altar of Bezal'e el construction.
4. On it 1000 burnt offerings.
5. Day of worship and respect.

B. "In that night" (v-7)

1. After a day of worship.
2. This would test the ceremonies of the previous day.
3. Logical time to present a great opportunity.

C. Now came:

v-7 "Ask what I shall give thee"

1. Unusual opportunity.
2. Tests the character of man.
3. Great permission given.
4. What liberty God's people have in prayer.

D. But are we much behind in opportunities?

Matt. 7:7 "Ask"

Jn. 14:14 "If ye ask anything in *my name I will do it.*

E. What are you asking for?

Matt. 21:22 "And all things whatsoever" *ye ask*

1. Prayer is powerful. *in prayer bel.,*
2. You'll get much! *you shall rec.*

II. Solomon not taken back by the opportunity

A. His review with God

1. Showed great mercy unto David.
2. David's my father--thus heritage means something.

3. Made me reign in his stead--it's all your work, dear God.
4. You made a promise to David, my father.
 - a) He walked before in truth.
 - b) In righteousness.
 - c) Uprightness of heart.
 - d) Kept in great kindness to put his son on the throne (from I Kings 3:6)
 - e) Thus cutting out Solomon's eulogy from David.
 - f) Solomon will reign because of great kindness of God.
5. As parents what do we leave our children spiritually speaking?

B. Next Solomon cited his own weaknesses.

1. "I am but a little child"--some say 14, others 20.
2. Know not how to go out and come in.
 - a) Humble disparagement of self.
 - b) Note God's use of youth.
3. In midst of a great chosen people--can't number, like dust.
4. Do we think too highly of ourselves?

5. Tennyson:

Behold--we know not anything
 So runs my dream, but what am I?
 An infant crying in the night
 An infant crying for the light
 And with no language but a cry.

- C. Yet had the wisdom to grasp the moment.

I Kings 3:9 "Give therefore thy servant an³"

II Chron. 1:10 "Give me now wisdom & know."

III. Let's See Those Things:

A. Understanding heart to judge thy people.

1. Strong sense of responsibility.
2. Conviction that high position involves corresponding duties.
3. That I may discern between good and bad.
 - a) Truth & falsehood.
 - b) Right and wrong not always easy to distinguish.
 - c) Needs special gifts of the heart and understanding.
 - d) Comes as a gift of God.

B. "Give me now wisdom & knowledge"
(II Chron. 1:10)

1. Beginning with Solomon the wise man could enjoy as much prestige as the warrior of the battlefields.
2. Men's character appears in the choices made.
3. Judge them by their desires (and what they laugh at).
4. As David's son he is choosing the spiritual over the temporal.

I Chron. 22:11-12 (READ)

5. Justice and to judge just judgement lay at deepest foundation of society. (Henry)
6. Noble future lies before us in these words.

7. Some chose the lower good, not the highest.
8. Wisdom--soul's capacity for seeing truth & adapting to exigencies of life.
9. Knowledge--truth apprehended and possessed by a soul.

Ps. 143:8

10. Did not ask to be a great man, nor for a great social position, nor that his youth had been virtuously spent, nor that he was piously inclined, but that God made a promise!

2 Sam. 7:12-16

11. Wisdom is superior.

James 3:17

Prov. 4:7

12. Profit in limiting our requests.

IV. Then God Conditionally Superadded.

II Chron. 1:11-12 (READ)

I Kings 3:13-14 (READ)

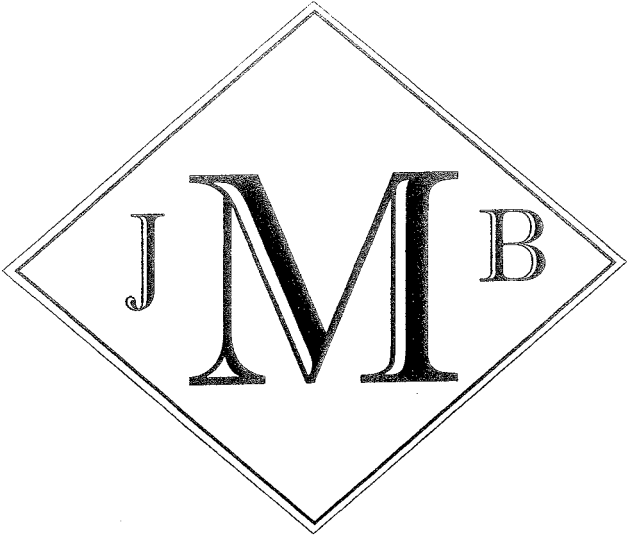
- A. Though great wisdom he must be guided by word of God.
- B. It remained to be seen how faithful Solomon would be.
- C. With too many the early dew & morning cloud pass away--leaving no trace.
(Meyer)

Hos. 6:4

Joelton VBS - 7/14/97

Granny White - 7/20/97

Jackson Park VBS - 7/21/97



J M B

IT'S FRIENDSHIP DAY

2 Chron. 20:7

I. We see friendship as one of life's high honors.

2 Chron. 20:7 "Gave the land to seed of Abraham

Isa. 41:8 "Is. art my servant, Jacob chosen"

James 2:23 "A bel. God & it was imputed"

A. Emerson quote #1 & #2.

B. Stevenson quote #3.

II. It's no secret, I want you for my friend.

A. There are ways to make them.

B. In opposition there are ways to lose them.

III. Let's study the negative first--since I want to make, not break friendship. I will lose friends by:

A. Using them.

Prov. 19:4-6 Wealth makes--giving friends

Prov. 14:20 "The rich hath many"

1. There are 3 faithful friends--an old wife, an old dog and ready money. (B. Franklin)

2. Mark Twain card #4.

3. Ben Franklin card #5.

B. By unjust criticism.

Matt. 20:13 "Friend, I do thee no wrong"

1. Story of Early & 11th hour--1 penny

2. Bargain was fair.

3. I must not be envious of others' good fortune. (Wilde card) #6

C. By devising my own schemes.

Matt. 22:12 "F. how camest thou"

1. Story of marriage feast.

2. Some would not come.

3. One came only on his own terms.

D. By betrayals.

Matt. 26:50 "Friend, wherefore art thou"

1. Betrayal in garden.

2. Still gave him another chance.

E. By inconsistent actions.

Ps. 41:9 "Yea, my own familiar friend"

F. By whispering & repeating hurtful things

Prov. 16:28 "A whisperer separateth c. friends

Prov. 17:9 "He that repeateth"

1. Henry Van Dyke card #7.

IV. Just as surely as these are 6 proven ways to lose, there are 6 proven ways to win.

A. Openness

Exo. 33:11 "And the Lord spake to M. face"

1. Julian Goodpaster's letter & quote
Arabian proverb - #8.

2. Henry Ford clip - #9.

B. Consistency

Prov. 17:17 "A f. loveth at all times"

1. C. F. Andrews card #10.

2. Brewster card #11.

C. Being Friendly Always.

Prov. 18:24 "Must show himself & stick"

1. I went in antique shop & explained
a stereoptigan & he said, "Yeah,
what about it?"

2. Do you tip curt waiters?

3. A. Jackson story #12.

D. Constructiveness

Prov. 27:6 "Faithful are the wounds of a friend

IVIV Wounds from a friend can be trusted but
an enemy multiplies kisses.

E. By risking & lifting

Matt. 11:19 "The Son of Man came eating"

1. "Real friend" quote #12.

2. Slightly cracked #13.

F. Service

Lu. 11:6 "Friend, lend me 3 loaves"

1. Joseph Scriven story #14.

V. We lose by:

A. Using

B. Unjust criticism

C. Selfishness & Pride

D. Betrayals

E. Inconsistency

F. Whispers

VI. We win by:

A. Openness

B. Consistency

C. Friendliness

D. Constructiveness

E. Risk & Lift

F. Service

VII. Though I want yours the friendship I most desire is Jesus.

John 15:13-14 "Greater love"

Westvue church, Lewisburg, TN(BC)-11/19/89

"We take care of our health, we lay up money, we make our roof tight and our clothing sufficient, but who provides wisely that he shall not be wanting in the best property of all—friends?

—EMERSON

• The ornament of a house is the friends who frequent it.

—Ralph Waldo Emerson
(1803-82)

77
..So long as we love we serve. So long as we are loved by others I would almost say we are indispensable; and no man is useless while he has a friend. —Robert L Stevenson.

over



#4

Mark Twain said, "When you ascend the hill of prosperity may you not meet a friend." But Twain was a humorist and the statement was given in jest. It applies only to acquaintances--not true friends. A friend loves, and "love" envieth not."

Misfortune tests your friends. But so does prosperity.

The shifts of fortune test the reliability of friends.

Cicero

FLOWERS OF FRIENDSHIP, Leroy Brownlow, pp 30-31

#5

Now I have a Sheep and a Cow, every Body bids me

Good morrow.

Friendship

"Sayings of Poor Richard" From Poor Richard's Almanack

By Benjamin Franklin - Page 8

Anybody can sympathize with the sufferings of a friend, but it requires a very fine nature to sympathize with a friend's success.—OSCAR WILDE.

#6

111
Are you willing to stoop down and consider the needs and desires of little children;

To remember the weakness and loneliness of people who are growing old;

To stop asking how much your friends love you, and ask yourself whether you love them enough;

To bear in mind the things that those who live in the same house with you really want, without waiting for them to tell you;

To trim your lamp so that it will give more light and less smoke, and to carry it in front so that your shadow will fall behind you;

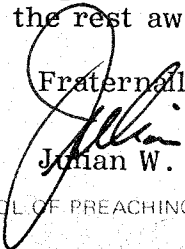
To make a grave for your ugly thoughts, and a garden for your kindly feelings with the gate open?

Henry Van Dyke

HOME FIRES - Chas. J. Allen - P.16

118
Thanks ever for the vulnerability of our friendship! I always feel that I can "pour out the contents of my heart, that you will sift grain and chaff alike, keep what is worth keeping and with the breath of kindness blow the rest away."

Fraternally,


Julian W. Goodpaster

Brotherhood #9

Henry Ford was having lunch with a friend of mine many years ago when suddenly he asked, "Who is your best friend?" My friend was nonplussed for an answer. Then Ford took out a pen and wrote on the white tablecloth: "Your best friend is the person who brings out of you the best that is within you."

—*Norman Vincent Peale, PLUS*

C. F. Andrews used to have a story of a true friendship. In the 1914-18 war there were two men who were close friends. One was left wounded in no-man's-land between the trenches. His friend waited until darkness came, and then at the peril of his life #10 crawled out to help him. The first words which the wounded man said were: "I knew that you would come."

In the ups and downs of life, true friendship remains the same.

"Marching Orders" - By William Barclay - pp. 139-140

A friend, someone said, is "one who comes in when the whole world has gone out." Like the relationship of David and Jonathan, a true friend "strengthens one's hand in God." #11

PEOPLE WHO CARE - C. W. Brewster - P. 89

Once, at a great outdoor banquet, Jackson was engaged in conversation at one end of the table when it sounded as though a close friend was under attack at the far end of the table. Rather than try to force his way through the crowds on either side of him, Jackson jumped on top of the table and strode toward his friend, wading through dishes and knocking food aside.

"I'm coming," he shouted, "I'm coming," and his hand reached inside his coat. #12

When the crowd saw the motion of his hand they began screaming. "Don't fire," they begged. "Don't fire."

When he realized that his friend was safe, Jackson halted in his tracks. And there he stood, like some "mad Colossus," atop the table, amid the wreckage of dishes, the spectators drawn back in terror and expecting him to start firing at any moment.

He drew his hand from his pocket. It held a tobacco box. With

a loud click he shut the lid and returned to his place.

"Andrew Jackson and the Course of American Empire" - Page 164
by Robert V. Remini

FRIENDS—Genuine

Real friends are those who, when you've made a fool of yourself, don't feel that you've done a permanent job.

#12

A good friend is one who thinks you're a good egg, even though you might be slightly cracked.

#13

Friendship

9

#14

HE WOULDN'T DO IT FOR MONEY

SCRIPTURE: Luke 18:1-14

And he spake a parable unto them to this end, that men ought always to pray, and not to faint.

The town is Port Hope, Canada. A monument is being erected, not for the leading citizen who just died, but for a poor, unselfish, working man who gave most of his life and energy to help those who couldn't repay him.

Joseph Scriven was born in Dublin in 1820. In this youth Ireland had the prospect of a great citizen with high ideals and great aspirations. He was engaged to a lovely lass who had promised to share his exalted dreams. On the eve of their wedding her body was pulled from a pond into which she had accidentally fallen and drowned. Young Scriven never overcame the shock. Although a graduate of Trinity College, and ready to embark on a brilliant career, he began to wander to try to forget his sorrow. His wanderings took him to Canada where he spent the last forty-one of his sixty-six years. He became a very devout Christian.

His beliefs led him to do servile labor for poor widows and sick people. He often served for no wages.

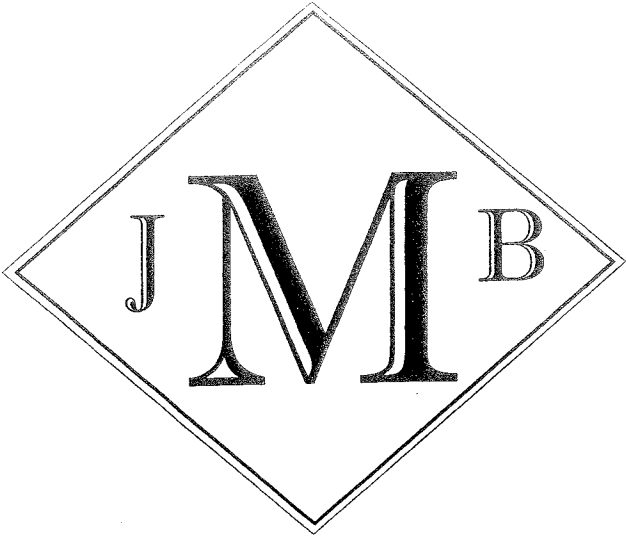
It was not known that Mr. Scriven had any poetic gifts until a short time before his death. A friend, who was sitting with him in an illness, discovered a poem that he had written to his mother in a time of sorrow, not intending that anyone else should see it.

What a Friend we have in Jesus,
All our sins and griefs to bear!
What a privilege to carry
Everything to God in prayer!
Oh, what peace we often forfeit,
Oh, what needless pain we bear,
All because we do not carry
Everything to God in prayer.

The poem was later set to music and has become a much loved gospel song. It is said to be the first song that many missionaries teach their converts. In the polls taken to determine the popularity of hymns and gospel songs, "What a Friend We Have in Jesus" is always near the top.

Mr. Scriven will be long remembered as the man who helped others when they couldn't help themselves. If you have read other devotions in this book by now you have seen that the overriding attitude or philosophy in Christianity can be wrapped up in one word—others. We come back to it over and over again. Anything done for Christ must be done for others.

REFLECTION: Prayer is the most powerful force available to Christians everywhere. Any person who neglects the opportunity to commune with God and to draw on His resources will not show much growth in his faith. Reaffirm your commitment to pray more.



MAKING FRIENDS

II Chron. 20:5-13

- I. What's nicer than a friend?
 - A. Would you like to enlarge your circle?
 - B. Would you like your friends to enlarge their joys?
 - C. What better acquaintance & achievement could you have than to bring your fellows to friendship c God?

II. Let me tell the story of 2 Chron. 20.

A. Background material.

1. Jehoshaphat is Judah's 4th King.
2. Reigned 25 yrs.
3. Sought to walk in God's ways.
4. He "brought back the people to the Lord God of their fathers."
5. Yet his fallacy was making alliances c the wrong folks.

(a) Son Jehoram married Athaliah, daughter of Jezebel.

(b) Sought alliance c Ahab.

2 Chron. 18:1 "Now J. had riches and honor in abund"

2 Chron. 19:2 "Love them that hate the Lord."

Prov. 1:10 "My son if sinners entice thee, consent th"

6. Now he's attacked by enemy forces - what shall he do?

B. Meets the pressure c Prayer 2 Chron. 20:5 -

1. Note some features: (Prayer was 1st action).

(a) Stood - reverence.

(b) Congregation - Public.

(c) House - Right time, place, people - only here is new court mentioned, and we are uncertain

as to what is meant.

2. Begins a great Prayer - note cry of man's need & God's response.

(a) Note features about God.

(1) Of our Fathers I Kings 8:57.

((a)) Note believe God's eternal, alive & able.

((b)) To God we've obviously come for help.

Heb. 11:6 "But w/o faith it is impossible to please him

2. Dwells in Heaven.

((a)) Controls things.

Ps. 103:19 "The Lord hath prepared his throne in the he

3. Ruler of the Heathen & all His power.

((a)) Not local but God over all.

Ps. 115:2-3 "Wherefore should the heathen say, Where

I Chron. 29:12 "Thou reignest over all

Dan. 4:35 "Everlasting dominion

4. In hand is power & might - none able to withstand

5. Our God who earlier drove out enemy.

((a)) Pleads former conduct of God as case for preser

((b)) Our = right relationship c God.

6. Gave land to seed of Abraham thy friend forever

Deut. 5:2.

((a)) Waves the covenant, contract relation before God.

((b)) Shows title via Abraham.

Gen. 15:15-18 "And thou shalt go to thy fathers in per

((c)) Abraham a Gentile became 1st Hebrew.

7. Friend.

((a)) Only man called Father of Faithful.

((b)) Only man called Friend of God.

James 2:23 "And the scripture was fulfilled which said
Isa. 41:8 "But thou, Israel, art my servant, Jacob who

((c)) Friend = Lover.

((d)) Friend if obey.

John 15:14-15 "Ye are my friends, if ye do whatsoever

((e)) Grounds for friendship.

((1)) Reciprocated love.

1 Jn. 4:19 "We love him because He 1st loved us."

((2)) Close resemblance of character & sympathy.

((3)) Oneness of action.

1 Cor. 3:9 "For we are laborers together c God

2 Cor. 6:1 "Workers together c Him

8. Sanctuary for thy name.

((a)) Temple token of God's presence c them.

9. In trouble we come to God.

((a)) Only here is hope.

((b)) In trouble we expect God to show mercy.

((c)) Set self & seek God.

((d)) Go c fixedness of thot, sincerity of intention,
vigor, resolution.

((e)) We may have a great army but only God can
deliver.

((f)) Plead ingratitude & injustice of the enemy -
He forbid earlier their extermination.

10. Our eyes are upon thee (V. 12).

((a)) Prayer acknowledges God & give Him glory.
Only V. 11 Land called possession.

((b)) Plead our defenseless, his power, his faithfulness

Ps. 25:15 "Mine eyes are ever toward the Lord

123:2 "Our eyes wait upon the Lord

Ps. 141:8 "Mine eyes are unto thee

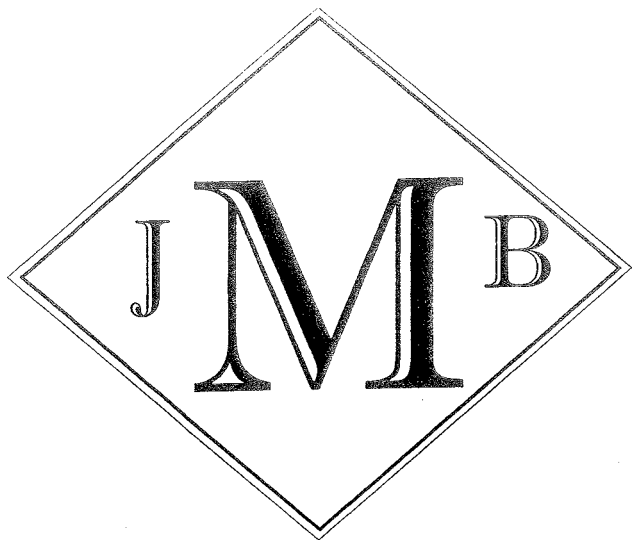
((c)) For our part we don't know what to do

3. Final Facts.

(a) United - All Judah stood.

(b) Bring whole family to this realization.

West End Young Married Couples Class 9-10-75
West End 100 Plus Class 9-14-75



YOU NEED NOT FIGHT--STAND STILL--SEE THE
SALVATION OF THE LORD II Chron. 20:15-18

I. What's harder to know than the **bands** of:

- A. Liberty - where my nose begins.
- B. Freedom - fire in a crowded theatre.
- C. Salvation - all God or all man.
- D. Question is What is God doing in us?

1. Is He sovereign?

2. Am I passive?

3. Am I predestinated?

4. Am I the captain of my fate?

II. I should like to set it in focus by telling you a story
from 2 Chron. 20.

A. Jehoshaphat's dilemma.

1. 3 armies march against him; Moab, Ammon,
others.

2. Called "great multitude" V. 2.

3. J. feared & set himself to seek the Lord -
proclaimed fast (V. 3).

B. Response of Co. to Jehosh.

1. Came together.

2. To ask help of the Lord - (note it's bigger than
their ability).

3. Jehos. prayed (V. 6-13).

4. Note verse 13.

5. All praying together.

B. The Prophecy of an Unknown Man.

1. Jahaziel comes forward.

a.) Trace him for 5 generations.

b.) Nowhere else identified as a prophet.

c.) God can find prophets where He wants them:
Elisha at the plough, Amos c the herd.

2. Jahaziel's prophecy.

a.) Be not afraid by reason of this great multitude.

(1) Note God ans. quickly.

(2) Note He ans. while they were assembled prayin

(3) While they were speaking God sent message to reassure.

(4) Belief in the providence of God can compose a mind under great difficulties.

(5) We need not be affected by a mere multitude.

(6) Trust in the Lord tho dangers threaten.

(7) God speaks to those who seek Him.

(8) Man must trust God's superiority.

b.) The Battle is Not Yours, but God's.

(1) Heard that before!

I Sam. 17:47 "And all this assembly shall know that th

(2) Troubled man's sorest need is to have a God (competent) to flee to.

(3) He's saying it's not for you to fight.

(4) Does man have nothing to do?

((a)) Battle won by God.

((b)) They need only confront enemy & there will be no battle - God will do it.

((c)) They are to stand still & watch.

(5) Man's part: have faith in God & follow word.

(6) Before enemy it takes more faith to stand than to fight.

(7) All battles are not won by the above method.

((a)) This was the word of God for this occasion.

((b)) God's more concerned about us than we are ourselves.

((c)) We make the noise - He makes the work -
(Nicoll)

((d)) We often are in a corner - powerless against a great host.

((e)) We are servants, not masters.
We are creatures, not creators.

((f)) Balance of power does not depend on our numbers.

c.) "Tomorrow go ye down against them".

1. Credit goes to God, but man obediently goes to battle.

2. Tho really there was little for people to do the luxury of cowardice not theirs - go forward!

d.) Intelligence given of the enemy.

1. Tells them where they'll find enemy.

2. Knows his movements.

3. Ziz only mentioned here.

f.) Don't fight - set self - stand still - see salvation (V. 17).

1.) Strange battle plan.

2.) Won't be instruments of victory but rather joyful spectators of total defeat of the enemy.

3.) We are more than conquerors.

4.) Stand - hard on cowardly.

5.) Don't fight - too little for the active.

6.) But enough for the obedient.

7.) If God be for us, who can be against us.

C. Jehosaphat's reaction.

1. Name means Jehovah is judge - will he live up to his name in living trust?
 2. Bowed his face to the ground.
 - (a) King prayed in presence.
 - (b) King prostrated self in view.
 - (c) Reverence for God & His word.
 - (d) Confidence in his promise.
 - (e) Thankfulness for deliverance.
 3. Then all the people bowed.
 - a.) Power of leadership.
 - b.) Power of example.
 4. Levites stood up to praise.
- D. Deeds of the Next Morning.
1. They rose early - God's work demands early response.
 2. They went forth - best evidence of faith is a prompt & cheerful obedience.
 3. Jeshospat dispatched troops.
 - a.) There himself - in person. He's there among the people. He stood in gate to encourage regiment after regiment as they passed.
 - b.) Believe in the Lord - believe the prophets.
 - (1) Put trust in God.
 - (2) Don't put trust in the prophets but the word they speak.
 - (3) Renounce all false confidences.
 - (4) God will not give His glory to another.
 - (5) Trust in self we thus abandon Him.
 - (6) Use means but don't trust them.
 - (7) Don't neglect proper means of God's authorizat

(8) Doubt not God's ability or willingness.

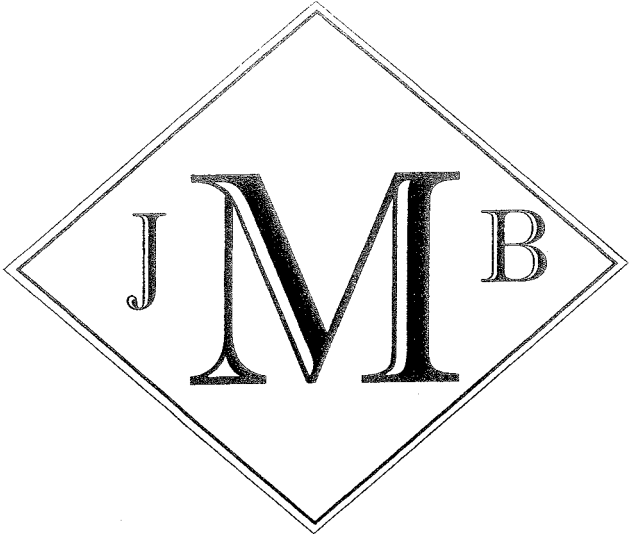
4. Put singers at the head of the column. Sacred value to song.
 - a.) Could sing before the promises are fulfilled.
 - b.) Anybody can sing when the battle's over.
 - c.) Chr. shouts before the victory because he know what is to come.
 - d.) Can we trust in the holiness of our cause.
 - e.) Are we clothed c the spirit of holiness?
 - f.) Holiness necessary to leaders.
 - g.) Their chorus: "Praise the Lord for his mercy endureth forever." What better war cry!
- F. God set the ambush & gave the victory.
 1. Ambush supernatural w/o being specified?
 2. Angels?
 3. Men?
 4. Feuding among self?
 5. Lord has many ways at His disposal we know not of.
 6. He can touch the reason & eye of man so that a man mistakes his brother for his enemy.
 7. God doesn't explain how He did it.
 8. Smote one another.
 9. Self destruction was providential. God makes the wrath of men to praise him as his folks stood firm w/o delivering a blow.
 10. Dead bodies everywhere - "none escaped."
 11. Spoils so great 3 days to gather.
 12. All battle won before Jehos. got there!
 13. No credit to armor - only to Author.

- 14. Rich spoils belong to faith.
- 15. Lit. no loading or carrying - spoils so great.
- G. 4th Day's Return.
 - 1. Same happy mood they marched out. With joy.
 - 2. "For the Lord had made them to rejoice" (V. 27).
 - a.) Firm reliance on His word.
 - b.) No loss of returning troop - no disorder.
 - 3. Their day's work gave name to the valley - Berachah.
 - a.) Means Blessing.
 - b.) Praised God c such force gave name to Valley.
 - c.) Public mercies call for public acknowledgement
 - d.) Joyous homecoming of happy warriors.

H. God Gives

- 1. Power to the Praying
- 2. Success to the Serving
- 3. Calm to the keepers of the word
- 4. Songs to the Soldiers

West End 4-9-78
 South Main Church, Heatherford, Sep. 4-19-78



THE WAY TO MEET CALAMITY

II Chron. 20:1-30

- I. We live in a pressure cooker - just what do you do about it?
 - A. How do you react to overwhelming odds?
 - B. How do you meet trouble you didn't cause?
 - C. When danger engulfs what's the first thing you do?
 - D. When you know you can't cut it where do you turn?
- II. I've never been King of Judah but I've felt the same hot breath of defeat Jehoshaphat felt. The thrust of this lesson is to see what he did, examine the content of his prayers and tabulate the results.
 - A. Perhaps I can follow!
 - B. We then seek to see the principles involved.
- III. The "Critical Care" Position of the King.
 - A. The multitude moved against him.
 1. Changes suddenly come.
 2. Many of them we did not provoke.
 3. The unexpected has a way of unraveling us.
(Jim Hughes, Highland Village Church Austin, TX suddenly and without warning lost his 37-year-old wife, mother of 3.)
 4. King James has hard time identifying enemy - other translations superior.
 - a) Suddenly tribes are marching.
 - b) Came around southern end of Dead Sea.

- c) Already at Engedi - thus no doubt about their intent and action - they, the great multitude is moving!
- d) Surprise! You've got a war on your hands.
 - (1) 1st time Judah invaded - their wars have been in foreign territory.
 - (2) It's 3 against one.
 - (3) Men somehow enjoy devouring one another.
 - (4) All nations cultivate the art of war.
 - (5) We have no idea what provoked this attack.

5. Some things we need to know.

- a) Name of enemies.
- b) Size of them.
- c) Location of them.

B. The Counterattack - the other means of self-defense.

1. Jehoshaphat feared.

- a) Feared calamities coming on the people.
- b) Feared the displeasures of God.

Lev. 26:25

2 Kings 24:2-3

(was this God's punishment?)

- c) Feared because he knew he had some guilt. (I was in services at Smithville and in a prayer a man asked for forgiveness that we might be "somewhat justified". I want it all the way.

2 Chron. 19:2

- d) Fear natural but must not stop us from seeking wise counsel & using our own best thoughts.
 - e) The less we fear God the more apt we are to be given to His wrath.
2. Set himself to seek the Lord.
 - a) To get help of God, seek it.
 - b) Be in right condition to receive it.
 3. Proclaimed a fast.
 - a) 1st incidence of general fast called by a royal proclamation.
 - b) Fast, like arrow, puts our minds to the task without any diversion.
 - c) Wanted all Judah in it.
 - (1) All involved - why not use all - great lesson for elders.
 - (2) There is an effectiveness in the weakest member.
 - (3) Get everybody involved.
 - (4) People readily came.
 4. Ask the help of the Lord - truly earnest prayer.
 - a) All in the hands of God so use all ordinary means plus prayer.

1 Sam. 14:6

- b) Prayer had earlier worked most favorably.

Judges 3:9

5:15

4:3

6:6

10:10

- c) His actions show he wants favor of God thus go to the horns of the altar.
- d) He stood - all would know he fully subscribed to this.
- e) He stayed in forefront.

IV. Note the Nature of His Prayer.

A. Since his prayer produced great results, perhaps he can show me much about prayer.

1. He was the right man at the right place.

V.32 "Did what was right in the sight of the Lord

V.5 House of the Lord - new court

2. Spoke reverently to God.
 - a) Name - Lord God.
 - b) Of our Fathers - thy people Israel
 - c) Spoke personally to God as a personal & present God.

Heb. 11:6

- d) God is ancestral.
3. God in Heaven.
 - a) Celestial.
 - b) Also mundane.
4. Rules over Kingdoms of Heathens.
 - a) Universal & local.
 - b) Universal authority.
 - c) Recounts God's great attributes.
5. In thy hand is there not power and might.
6. Art thou not our God.
 - a) This land via thee.
 - b) Abraham thy friend.

- c) Gave gift of land - everlasting friendship.
- d) Knows history of his dealings with them.
- e) Ancestral and faithful.

- 7. Here in sanctuary we worship.
- 8. Promised to meet our needs - and stated them (V 9-11)
- 9. Makes moving appeal - knew what he wanted.
- 10. Confessed weakness.

V-12 "We have no might against this"

- 11. Confessed ignorance.
- 12. Voiced faith - "eyes are on thee"
It's in your hands! Dependent on God.

B. Accompanied things.

- 1. All Israel prayed - united.
- 2. Brought wives and children - tell them what's going on.
- 3. Cause a righteous one.

V. Tell what happened (14-30)

A. Jahaziel

- 1. Came in spirit of the Lord.
- 2. Be not afraid or dismayed.
- 3. Battle is not yours but the Lord's.
- 4. Tomorrow you will see.
 - a) Need not fight this battle.
 - b) Stand ye still - see the salvation of the Lord.
 - c) Fear not be not dismayed.
(I, I am thy God - aid)

B. Jehoshaphat

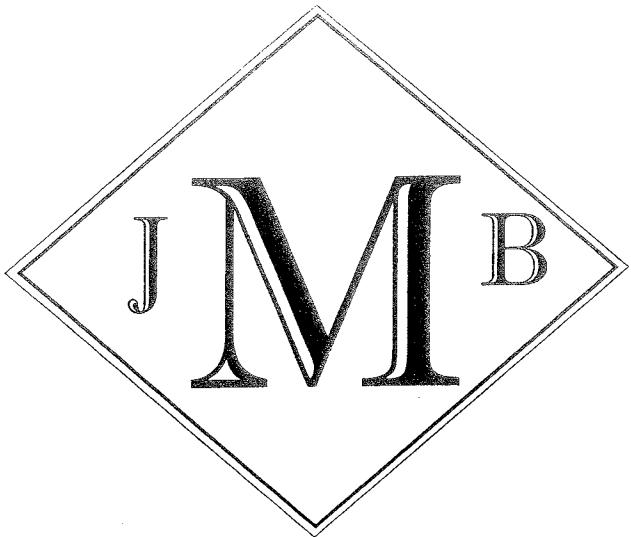
1. Bowed, face to ground.
2. All Judah fell worshipping.
3. Levites loud voice of praise.

C. Early the next day.

V-20"Believe in the Lord your God"

1. Singers appointed.
2. Celebrate victory before it came.
3. Praise the Lord, mercy endure.
4. Ambushment - kill each other.
 - a) Smitten
 - b) Destroy one another (tho not told how).
5. Multitude dead bodies - none escaped.
6. Three days to take spoils - more than they could carry.
7. Returned to Jerusalem with joy.

V-29"And the fear of God was on all"



J M B

BROKEN BOATS
2 Chron. 20:35-37

- I. Something old
Something new
Something borrowed
Something blue
fits the tradition of the bride.
- II. Life has another: something broken,
something blue - may I speak to you about
Broken Boats.
- III. What's been broken for you?
 - A. Promise
 - B. Date - *Preacher's shoulders*
 - C. Engagement - *Quia profound - Dal hope*
 - D. Heart, health, home - *Rassie happiness*
- IV. Every hear of a broken boat?
II Chron. 20:35-37
- V. Here's the story.
 - A. Jehoshaphat did it again - and he
should have known better.
 1. Just won a great victory via prayer
and fasting.
 2. 35 years old when he started and
reigned 25 years; steadfast, consistent.
 3. Loyal.
 - V.32 "He walked in the way of Asa"
 4. Chink in his armor tho.
 - V.33 "Howbeit the high places were not"
 - a) Can't leave a little leaven.
 - b) Some evil spreads to serious evil.
 - c) People are fickle--go back to
what they were. *Lost job due to illness*
 5. Joined to Ahaziah again.

B. Examine this.

1. King of Israel.
2. Who did very wickedly.
3. Made an unholy alliance.
4. Joined a wicked man in a commercial adventure.
5. He'd married his son to a daughter of Ahab, Ahab was father of Ahaziah.
6. Glitter of gold called him.
 - a) Fleet to sail to Tarshish.
 - b) Go for gold of Ophir.

1 Kings 22:48-49 *Go to Ophir for gold but they went not*

C. The Punishment - I Kings 22:41-50

1. Dodavah announced the broken boats.
 - a) Never heard of him before.
 - b) Sad - close to end of reign came this blunder.
 - c) Smacks of ingratitude toward a God who had earlier done so much for him.
2. Broke ships in port - never made the high seas.
 - a) Storm came.
 - b) Utterly shattered.

Ps. 48:7 *Thea breakest the s. of T. c/p an east wind*

D. What lesson for us?

1. Better to lose a ship than a soul.
2. Let us not perish in our sins.
3. King wished one thing; people thought another way - peers do have effect.

3 1/2 Gold at Ophir must not induce unwholy alliance

Judgement of God had salutary effect 3.

4. Learned lesson - refused later to join with him. Why get burned again? *Don't repeat 2 whoredoms.*

I Kings 22:49 *Go 2 ships - he would not!*

5. We all have feet of clay.

VI. Take heart - broken boats could become your raft to glory.

Harding University Chapel - 2/9/88

David Lipscomb University chapel - 11/19/90

X
A new barber nicked a customer badly giving him a shave. Hoping to appease the man, he asked helpfully, "Do you want your head wrapped in a hot towel?"

"No thanks," said the customer. "I'll just carry it home under my arm."

Whose Worry?

X

The girl who was invited on her first date called her pastor to get some advice about it. He said, "If your boyfriend places his hand on one shoulder, I'll not worry; if he places his hand on the other shoulder, I'll not worry. If he places his head on your shoulder, I'll do some conscientious worrying."

She had her date and came back to her pastor a couple of weeks later. He asked, "How did you get along?"

"Well, pastor, my boyfriend placed his hand on one shoulder and then on the other shoulder and then, pastor, I decided to place my head on his shoulder and let his preacher do the worrying about the situation."

Chinook, Mont.

V. M. K.

A YOUNG MAN met a beautiful girl at a party one Saturday night. He arranged to take her to the theater on the following Monday night. Then he took her dancing on Friday night. Before the evening was over, he had proposed.

"But," she said, "this is too sudden. I like you and we seem to get along well, but after all, we know nothing about each other."

"Oh, yes I do," he said. "For three years I've been working in the accounting department of the bank where your father keeps his money."

Comedy and Comment

An American, a Frenchman, and a Russian were discussing happiness.

"For me," the American said, "happiness is a beautiful autumn weekend when I can go back to my old college and watch the football team win a big game."

"Ah," the Frenchman said. "You Americans are sports mad. Happiness for me is reclining with my sweetheart on the banks of the Seine, eating cheese and bread and drinking wine and making love."

They looked at the Russian. "Comrades," the Russian said, "Suppose I am sitting in my one room flat in Moscow on a cold January day. My little son, Ivan, is sitting on my knee. I am reading the lead editorial in Pravda aloud. All at once there is a knock on the door. I answer it. Two large men are standing there. They show me KGB cards.

"Ivan Ivanoff?" they ask in an ominous tone.

And happiness is saying, "No — he lives upstairs."

— James Donat
Char' ...

OCCUPATIONAL HAZARD

Personnel Director: "Your application states you left your last job due to illness. What was the nature of your ailment?"

Applicant: "The boss said he was sick of the way I was doing my work."

Education
A postcard from an officer in the Mediterranean war zone to his son in college: "I am now standing on the cliff from which the Spartan parents threw their defective children. Wish you were here."

Woodchuckles; Woodmen Life Magazine

ker's Digest"

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