

Friday, September 14, 2018

**Foolish**

2 Chronicles 16-17

*For the eyes of the LORD range throughout the earth to strengthen those whose hearts are fully committed to him. You have done a foolish thing, and from now on you will be at war.*

2 Chronicles 16:9

It is a foolish thing to reject the LORD. Asa rejected the LORD by relying on man instead of God. This great king, who had experienced so many victories in the name of the LORD and who had led the people well, turned to his own resources. God sends a prophet to speak to him and uses a verse that has become an encouragement to many people (at least the first half), but looking at the verse in context helps me understand the conditional nature of the promise. As Hanani the seer spoke these words, they were not so much words of encouragement as they were words of clarification. As the eyes of the LORD ranged the earth for those to strengthen, Asa came up short. No longer was his heart fully committed to the LORD, so he would be at war. He became angry and apparently lived out his life as a bitter, sickly man. So I am left with a choice. Am I preparing my heart to be one of those that is fully committed to the LORD so that as His eyes range over the earth, He finds my heart ready to be strengthened for Him? This does not mean that I am perfect, but it does mean that my motives are pure and my heart is His.

*Precious LORD, take my heart and let it be totally and completely Yours. I am giving You the deed to my heart so that You can make it Your home. Keep me from doing a foolish thing by relying on anything other than You. Amen.*

Saturday, September 15, 2018

**Should you?**

2 Chronicles 18-19

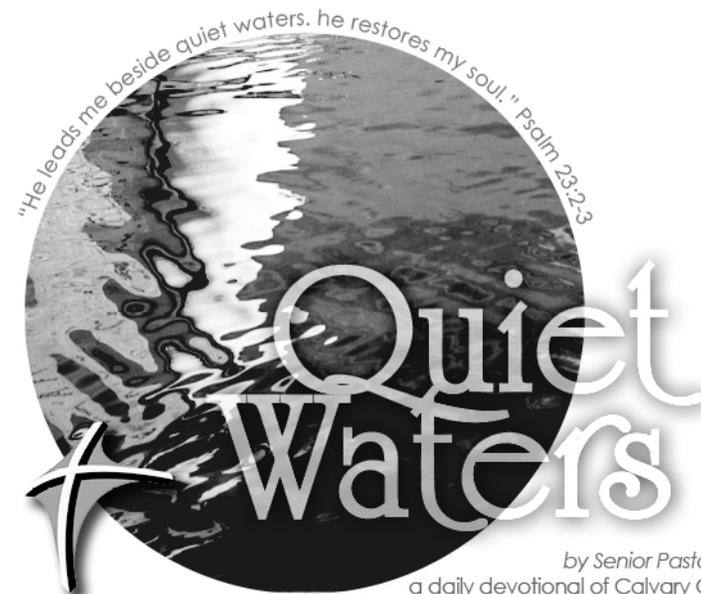
*When Jehoshaphat king of Judah returned safely to his palace in Jerusalem, Jehu the seer, the son of Hanani, went out to meet him and said to the king, "Should you help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? Because of this, the wrath of the LORD is upon you."*

2 Chronicles 19:1-2

Jehoshaphat returns from his escapades with the king of Israel and Jehu meets him to declare that God's wrath has come upon him. He has not chosen wisely. He has chosen to ally himself with Ahab through marriage (18:1). This was not pleasing to God. His life may have been spared, but the question asked is penetrating. Why would you make alliances with people who hate the LORD? Nevertheless, there is good in Jehoshaphat, and he makes some changes in Judah and he rids the land of the Asherah poles. He even set his heart on seeking God. But he will not be considered exemplary because he did not give himself fully to the LORD. I can learn from this. How do I allow my heart to drift away from the LORD? Should I help the wicked and love those who hate the LORD? In what ways am I tempted to give my heart to something that is actually opposed to God?

*Dear God, thank you for the reminder that I need to guard my heart from aligning with things that are opposed to you. I need to love as You love, but please help my heart to always be Yours. Amen.*

September 10 - 15, 2018



by Senior Pastor Chuck Cervenka  
a daily devotional of Calvary Community Church

Monday, September 10, 2018

## Splendor

2 Chronicles 8-9

*"Praise be to the LORD your God, who has delighted in you and placed you on his throne as king to rule for the LORD your God. Because of the love of your God for Israel and his desire to uphold them forever, he has made you king over them, to maintain justice and righteousness."*  
1 Chronicles 9:8

These two chapters proclaim the great splendor at the height of the nation of Israel. Solomon sits on the throne of God as king over all Israel. He will be the last king of the undivided kingdom. The Chronicler records the words of the Queen of Sheba, which make it very clear that, although Solomon is the king on the throne, that throne is the LORD's. It is interesting that as this queen (who was apparently extremely well off herself) comes, she is amazed at the splendor and majesty of the kingdom and yet it seems that she sees beyond Solomon to God. She also sees the love that Solomon's God has for Israel. In a way, this is an answer to the prayer Solomon offered. The temple was to stand as a testimony to the one true God so that when people came they would see Him in truth (6:33). It would seem the Chronicler is making a very clear point to the returning exiles. There is no king above God. Whoever sits on the throne of Israel is there by His decree. It would also serve to remind them that it is an eternal throne. There is a coming King. This serves to remind me that God is my Sovereign. He reigns over all there is—including my life. While there is a very distinct promise of a King for Israel, by His grace, that is a promise for my life personally as well.

*Dear God, please help me to recognize and fall under Your reign in my life. Help me to see that the throne of my life does not belong to me. It is Yours. Amen.*

Tuesday, September 11, 2018

## Consulted

2 Chronicles 10-11

*Then King Rehoboam consulted the elders who had served his father Solomon during his lifetime. "How would you advise me to answer these people?" he asked. <sup>8</sup> But Rehoboam rejected the advice the elders gave him and consulted the young men who had grown up with him and were serving him.*  
2 Chronicles 10:6, 8

Surely Rehoboam had big shoes to fill. Imagine being the one who was chosen to follow Solomon. Rehoboam would have two examples, at least, in his life. He had a grandfather and a father who were both kings. One was blameless before the LORD and sought the LORD with his whole heart. The other was the wisest king that ever lived. The text does not allow us to know the relationship between them all. I am sure that Rehoboam heard plenty of times how great each of them were. And now, here he is—ready to rule over all Israel. The first test comes quickly. Jeroboam is coming to offer to follow Rehoboam. All it will take is a favorable answer to what appears to be a reasonable request. Rehoboam asks for time to consult others. He consults elders and young men and follows the advice of young men. The new king that sits on the throne of God has apparently neglected consulting God. The results are staggering. A nation is divided (by God's hand 11:4). It can be very tempting to seek counsel from people around me and it is not bad to have godly counselors, but I must remember not to ever overlook consulting with the LORD.

*Dear God, You alone know what is absolutely best for the future and for all the decisions that I face each day. Teach me to consult with You in all situations. Amen.*

Wednesday, September 12, 2018

## Humbled

2 Chronicles 12-13

*Because Rehoboam humbled himself, the LORD'S anger turned from him, and he was not totally destroyed. Indeed, there was some good in Judah. <sup>14</sup> He did evil because he had not set his heart on seeking the LORD.*  
2 Chronicles 12:12, 14

God is certainly patient and kind. Rehoboam abandoned the law of the LORD (12:1) and, in so doing, led the people to do the same. The choice to abandon God led to all the treasures of the temple and the palace being removed. When I think about what David had dedicated to the temple and what Solomon had accumulated, I am awestruck to consider how long it took for the items to be removed. Silver had no value under Solomon and now the best they have is bronze. Rehoboam replaces the gold shields with shields of bronze. This seems to have brought him to a place of brokenness, which led to humility. God relented and did not totally destroy Rehoboam, even though, overall, the eulogy of his life is that he did evil because he did not set his heart on seeking the LORD. Pride is a terrible thing. It causes me to think more highly of myself than I ought and causes me to look down on others around me. That leads me to believe that I am better, which puts me in direct opposition to God. Humility causes me to set my heart on seeking the LORD and Him alone for my security and direction.

*Dear God, please give me an accurate understanding of who I am. Let me see my value as being found in You and Your grace revealed in my heart and life. Amen.*

Thursday, September 13, 2018

## Forces

2 Chronicles 14-15

*The LORD struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah. The Cushites fled, and Asa and his army pursued them as far as Gerar. Such a great number of Cushites fell that they could not recover; they were crushed before the LORD and his forces. The men of Judah carried off a large amount of plunder.*  
2 Chronicles 14:12-13

Once again, the Chronicler makes it clear that the line of David continues to seek the LORD. It is Asa who sits on the throne of David and it is Asa who is following the plans of God and ridding the nation of worthless and detestable things. People of Israel hear about this and come over to Asa because they see that the LORD is with Him (15:9). The LORD strikes down the Cushite—five-hundred-and-eighty thousand men (and God) against one million men. The Cushites have no idea how terribly outnumbered they really are. This is a victory for Asa, as king of Judah, but it is clear that the victory has come at the hand of the LORD. Asa sought the LORD and declared that they were going against the vast army in the name of the LORD (14:11). It was God Judah was fighting for and God the Cushites were fighting against. The phrase that sticks out to me is this: *"they were crushed before the LORD and his forces."* On this day, the army of Asa was the army of God. Each man was part of the forces of God. Do I see that I am one of those in the forces of God? I know He fights for me, but here I see that I fight for Him! I am in the LORD's army. What can man do to me when I fight in and for the name of the LORD?

*Dear Lord, You chose me to be one of Your soldiers. I am reporting for duty. Help me stand strong in Your service as we go against the enemy that wars against us. Amen.*