

**Intro:**

Why this series: If God exists, then it is of utmost importance we figure this out; we do not truly tap into our full humanity if we don't worship, given we were created for worship.

*What comes to mind when you hear the word "trust?"*

*Trust is a difficult thing, isn't it?*

Today we're taking a look at story of worship in the midst of a difficult time, when the world seems like it's falling apart. We're going to discover the power of worship in this sort of moment, but we're also going to discover the challenge of worship in this moment, because it will basically boil down to trust.

Let's take a look at our text. We have been looking at different stories of followers of God some hundreds of years before Jesus. Today, we do the same, with a king named Jehoshaphat. (see OT outline). He's in the midst of a tough situation, one that may seem distant to us, but one we can probably all relate to. Let's take a look at our text: 2 Chr. 20:1-23

Two points I want us to focus on as it relates to worship here.

**Worship involves a total trust in God, His plan, His promises**

What an intriguing story. Judah is being invaded, by a force too large for them to handle. And so the king calls the country together, and they all put themselves before God, praying to Him with a seriousness and genuineness that is gripping. Jehoshaphat leads out with a prayer, and as he does so a process begins where the king and the people are drawn to the place of *total belief and trust in God, His Plan, and His Promises*.

Notice his prayer:

God- He is sovereign (v.6)

His plan- Didn't you give us this land, didn't you allow us to build your temple here? (v.7)

His promises- didn't you say if we seek you here, you will deliver us? (v.7)

And the clincher is his total absolute trust and surrender: v. 12. There is no plan B, we are totally at your mercy.

The rest of the story only reinforces this sort of trust:

- Jehaziel prophesies and calls on the people to be confident in God and His work and promises, saying that He will deliver. (v.15ff) Side note: Jehaziel is a worship music team member, if not leader. It is key that we pray for everyone on our worship team, especially during this series, that God would use them.

- The people respond with trust, and worship. (v. 18-19)

- And then the next day, after an exhortation by Jehoshaphat to again believe in God and his promises, they show this confidence by going to that place with their worship team first, singing a song about God's great love and promise. (v.20-22)

And so worship can come in the darkest of moments, and it does so when there is this sort of total trust.

Now, a couple of **tensions** exist which need to discuss.

1. *Knowing God's promises vs. feeling like they are true and real*

How many times do we struggle with this tension? How do we move ahead?

I'm not sure I know the answer, I just no that it is something followers of Jesus have wrestled with throughout the ages. Ps. 42:1-3 is an example.

*2. Total surrender/trust vs. doing something during those situations?*

a. Total surrender brings freedom to act- we cannot act until we have gone through it.

Text: note the total surrender occurs, and then the actions after.

Story: when I first liked Yen

b. Community can help us figure out when are “doing” is inappropriate.

Text: it is interesting in v.21 that Jehoshaphat talks with people.

Story:

Total trust in God, His plan, His promises.

Comments/Questions?

**Worship brings God’s power in the midst of great difficulty**

Text: v. 22-23.

Some things to note:

1. Sometimes this is immediate and totally awesome because of how He works.

2. Sometimes this is much more subtle.

- God may not take away the difficulty, but give us what we need to go through the difficulty.

For example: Mark 14:26. Jesus was not delivered, but I am sure he got strength and power through worship in this moment.

- Sometimes he does this by helping us remember our greater reward.

Future rewards: Hebrews 10:32-24

God himself: 2 Cor 1:8-9, Ps. 43:3, Phil. 1:21, Phil. 3:7-11

*The point: worship can bring God’s power.*

Reason: Eph 6:10, 17- the weapon we used to fight off evil is referred to as being the sword of the Spirit, the Word of God. We said true worship is done through Spirit and Truth- there is definitely correlation here.

So think about a difficult area in your life. Your work situation. Your family. Your finances. Your love life. Your personal hang ups and additions. Do you believe in God’s plan right now? Will you trust him? Will you worship right now?

**Communion:**

We take communion today, an act that Jesus asked of us, to remember his death on a cross for our sins.

**Challenge**

Where do you need to trust and surrender?

Do you need to worship right now in this difficult place?