

Scripture for sermon "What Praise Can Bring About"

Psalm 103: 1-5

- ¹Praise the Lord , O my soul;
all my inmost being, praise his holy name.
- ²Praise the Lord , O my soul,
and forget not all his benefits-
- ³who forgives all your sins
and heals all your diseases,
- ⁴who redeems your life from the pit
and crowns you with love and compassion,
- ⁵who satisfies your desires with good things
so that your youth is renewed like the eagle's.

2 Chronicles 20: 14-24

¹⁴Then 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.

¹⁵He 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.

¹⁶Tomorrow 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. ¹⁷You 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.' " ¹⁸Jehoshaphat bowed with his face to the ground, and all the people of Judah and Jerusalem fell down in worship before the Lord. ¹⁹Then some Levites from the Kohathites and Korahites stood up and praised the Lord , the God of Israel, with very loud voice.

²⁰Early in the morning they left for the Desert of Tekoa. As they set out, Jehoshaphat stood and said, "Listen to me, Judah and people of Jerusalem! Have faith in the Lord your God and you will be upheld; have faith in his prophets and you will be successful." ²¹After consulting the people, Jehoshaphat **appointed men to sing to the Lord and to praise him for the splendor of his holiness as they went out at the head of the army**, saying:

"Give thanks to the Lord, for his love endures forever."

²²As they began to sing and praise, the Lord set ambushes against the men of Ammon and Moab and Mount Seir who were invading Judah, and they were defeated. ²³The men of Ammon and Moab rose up against the men from Mount Seir to destroy and annihilate them. After they finished slaughtering the men from Seir, **they helped to destroy one another.**

²⁴When the men of Judah came to the place that overlooks the desert and looked toward the vast army, they saw only dead bodies lying on the ground; no one had escaped.