

God, Help!

Scripture used: 2 Chronicles 14:8-10

OVERVIEW

This week's guest speaker, Pastor Mike Romberger, CEO of Mount Hermon Christian Center, blessed us with an expository message based on the life and lineage of King Asa found in 2 Chronicles. We learn that Asa is the sixth king on the throne of Israel and the great-great-grandson of King David, a man after God's own heart. Like David, he "did good and right in the sight of the LORD"; however, the same cannot be said of the kings between them. Solomon began his reign well but eventually allowed idol worship in his kingdom because of his many foreign wives. Solomon's son, Rehoboam, did evil in God's sight and Abijah, Rehoboam's son, did the same. Israel was no longer a nation that pleased God and Asa sought to do something about it. Courageously, King Asa reformed Israel by doing the following:

- 1) Removed the male cult prostitutes from the land
- 2) Removed most of the idols
- 3) Removed his mother from being Queen due to her idolatry
- 4) Restored the sacred gifts and vessels to the temple
- 5) Brought the people together to make an oath to follow God
- 6) Rebuilt the altar of God

In the selected passage, we find King Asa with a monumental challenge on his hands: the Ethiopian army declared war on Judah, bringing 1,000,000 men to fight against only 580,000 of Asa's men. Asa called out to God for help and, though Ethiopia had twice as many soldiers and better weaponry, because Asa relied completely upon God (2 Chron 14:11), God answered Asa's prayer and defeated them. The land of Judah was without war for 25 years until Israel came to war against them. However, instead of asking the Lord for help as he did 25 years prior, he sought to solve the problem on his own by relying on the king of Syria, an idolatrous nation, for help. Although his plan worked and Israel relented, God was no longer with King Asa and from that point on, Judah was constantly at war.

God is a good father and protects and provides for His children. He wants to help, but often times we will rely on our own understanding to solve our own problems, and we miss out on the miracles that He can do on our behalf if we just asked. More often than not, we tend to cry out "help!" to God only when faced with large problems that we cannot handle, but then when it comes to the medium or small sized issues, we depend upon ourselves rather than God to solve them. When we solve our own problems, we also risk making more problems just as King Asa did. We need to learn from King Asa's life to rely upon God when our backs are against the wall, but when trouble comes later, and it always comes, we should continue to rely upon God rather than ourselves. Sometimes the simplest of prayers is all God needs to hear in order for Him to respond, prayers as simple as "God, HELP!"

DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** When your back is up against a wall, where do you go for help?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** Pastor Mike said, "Success is a dangerous place to hang out spiritually because we become self-reliant and stop relying on God for help." Have you experienced the dryness of success? If not, think of someone in your life, a Bible character, or perhaps a celebrity who has experienced profound success whose life is anything but content.
- 3) **DO and PRAY** Make a list of all of the challenges in your life, both big and small. In each challenge, pray and ask God to help. If you feel comfortable, share this list with your group so you can pray for one another and watch how God answers in each other's lives!