

## **Thought for the Day – Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May.**

**"We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you!"**

*Then Jehoshaphat stood up in the assembly of Judah and Jerusalem at the temple of the LORD in the front of the new courtyard and said:*

*"LORD, the God of our ancestors, are you not the God who is in heaven? You rule over all the kingdoms of the nations. Power and might are in your hand, and no one can withstand you....."*

*For we have no power to face this vast army that is attacking us. We do not know what to do, but our eyes are on you."*

*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.' 2 Chronicles 20: 5-6, 12 & 15.*

I don't know about you but having listened to the briefings on Sunday and Monday nights and the news reports that followed them, I have to admit to being a little confused as to what the 'new rules' are and what the reasoning is behind some of the new measures. Now having said that, I do want to acknowledge what a hugely difficult job this is and pay tribute to all those who are working tirelessly to try to understand the workings of this virus and what to do to keep us safe and also help us safely return to something resembling normal life. We need to be praying for our leaders and do our best to follow the new guidance; but as I try to make sense of it in my own mind and as I felt fear surfacing in me as I considered how on earth all this is going to work out, I found myself going again to these verses in 2 Chronicles chapter 20.

Reading these verses took me back to remembering who God is – that He rules above the nations and that power and might are in His hands. That He is faithful and that God sees so much more than we can see, He knows more than we know and He works in ways beyond our comprehension. I think this crisis and our attempts to beat the unseen virus that is waging war on our nation and on our world shows just how little control and power we and our politicians actually have. *This uncomfortable thought can propel us towards fear or propel us towards God.* Jehoshaphat when faced with a vast army approaching had a choice, he could either be paralysed and overwhelmed by fear at the size of the army or stand in

God's strength and keep his eyes fixed on God. Jehoshaphat knew that the tribe of Judah couldn't defeat the enemy army in their own strength, he knew no human plan would suffice but he knew that God was for him and that He would never leave him or forsake him. The battle is the Lord's – that was true for Jehoshaphat and it's true for us!

So, in this time of confusion and fear, when we have no idea how or when this crisis will end and how or when life is going to return to anything like normal, let's do what we can to stay alert and let's fix our eyes upon God. Let's trust him with our questions, our doubts, our fears and those things we just can't understand about why this is happening and how it will all end. And let's continue to 'raise a hallelujah' in praise that is louder than all our unbelief. And then as the song says, 'up from the ashes hope *will* arise because death *is* defeated and the King *is* alive!'

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=e3RRU25dpPg>

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