

***“He Who Has Ears Let Him Hear” delivered by Ed Terry 07 05 20***  
Psalm 33: 4 – 22; 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14; 1<sup>st</sup> Peter 4: 1 – 10; James 4:1 – 12;  
**2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 15: 1 – 19 (Sermon)**

During the past three and one half months our country, and the world, have been faced with a health crisis, an economic crisis, and a civil disobedience crisis.

America’s streets are filled with violence, murders, lawlessness, injustices, corruption, hatred, and selfishness.

Politicians, health experts, celebrities, and protestors have proposed a number of solutions to address these conditions.

While these proposed solutions may lead to some improvements, they all are addressing the symptoms.

None of them have addressed the root cause of all of these conditions which is a spiritual crisis.

America has a spiritual crisis

As a nation we have left Almighty God out of the equation.

We have kicked God out of our schools and we have removed The 10 Commandments from our court system.

We have abandoned Almighty God’s moral standards and we have not obeyed God’s Law.

We have decided to make our own rules and we have chosen to do whatever we want to.

The idols of money, pleasures, sex, control, and self are prevalent throughout our culture.

America claims to be *“one nation under God”* but sadly America has lost our moral compass.

As Christians we claim to be followers of Jesus Christ.

But sadly, far too many Christians are disobeying Jesus’ commandments and have abandoned the way of life that Jesus taught and that Jesus modeled for us.

In Isaiah 53:6 we read these words; ***“We all, like sheep, have gone astray, each of us has turned to our own way”***.

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 10:11 tells us that the events in The Old Testament were recorded as examples ***“to keep us from setting our hearts on evil things as they did.”***

So today I would like for us to look at the conditions in Judah in King Asa’s day and to compare them to the conditions in our country today.

We also need to learn from the actions Judah took, we need to claim God’s promises, and we need to heed the warnings given in 2nd Chronicles 15

Listen again to the source of Judah's troubles given in verse 6; "***because God was troubling them with every kind of distress.***"

***"God was troubling His people with every kind of distress"*** in an attempt to get their attention.

God was trying to get Judah to acknowledge their sinful practices and trying to get His people to repent.

God was encouraging His people to return to Him and for His people to live in accordance with His commandments.

Think about the conditions in Judah that we read about and mentally compare them to the conditions in our country today.

There is a remarkable stimulatory.

God sent His prophet Azariah to the people of Judah and Judah listened to God's word.

God got Judah's attention!

Judah repented of their sinful way of life.

King Asa and the people took the corrective action that God desired.

The people realized how dependent they were on The Lord. (Verse 4)

This morning do you realize how dependent you are on The Lord.

Jesus said "***I am the vine and you are the branches if you abide in me you will bear much fruit but apart from me you can do nothing***" (John 15:5)

Friends, we all are totally dependent upon Almighty God whether we acknowledge that or not!!

Next the people in Judah turned away from their idols, they turned to The Lord, and they sought The Lord. (Verse 4)

I do not think that any of you have or worship any carved idols made of wood or metal.

But remember anything that you place more importance on than The Lord is an idol.

Some of today's popular idols are money, pleasure, sex, careers, education, etc.

Remember anything that is more importance to you than obeying The Lord and / or worshipping The Lord is your idol.

Any piece of jewelry that you wear for protection or you have as a "*good luck*" charm is your idol.

In verse 8 we read that King Asa also heeded God's word spoken by the prophet Azariah.

King Asa removed the idols in the whole land of Judah and Asa repaired the alter of The Lord.

Then King Asa assembled the people in Jerusalem (Verses 9 & 10)

In verse 11 we read that the people sacrificed thousands of animals to honor The Lord.

This morning we all need to ask ourselves; what am I willing to sacrifice for The Lord.

The Lord gives us seven days each week to enjoy His creation and to enjoy being with Him.

The Lord has commanded us to set aside one of those seven days each week for Him.

The Lord blesses us with many physical blessings but He only asks us to set aside 10% for Him.

We all need to ask ourselves are we really sacrificing anything for The Lord or are we simply giving The Lord any money and / or time that is left after I have satisfied all of my desires.

In verse 12 we read that the people entered into a covenant to seek The LORD, the God of Israel, with all their heart and soul.

Then verse 14 tells us the people publicly and enthusiastically took an oath to wholeheartedly seek The Lord.

When a person asks Jesus to be their savior they enter into an everlasting covenant with Jesus.

Jesus promises eternal life and we promise to love, to obey, and to serve Jesus.

In verse 13 we read that the people killed all the people who would not seek The LORD.

I am certainly not suggesting that we go out and kill all the unbelievers.

But this action by the people of Judah shows us that they were very serious about turning away from their idols and turning to The Only True Living God.

In verse 16 we are told that King Asa ousted his grandmother, Maakah, from her position as queen mother *“because she had made a repulsive image for the worship of Asherah”*.

Then Asa destroyed the image of Asherah his grandmother had made.

In verse 18 we are told that King Asa returned the gold and silver articles to the temple of God.

This morning we all need to ask ourselves if we have returned the money, the time, and the talents in our possession that belong to The Lord.

There was a revival in Judah and The Lord rewarded Judah by giving Judah peace for the next 20 years (verse 19)

The lessons for us today are crystal clear.

I am totally convinced that The Lord is trying to get our attention today.

The reason we are having all of these crises in our country is because we have a spiritual crisis in our country today.

As a nation we have strayed a long way away from our roots as Americans.

Have we gone too far?

Is it too late?

If you are physically sick and your doctor prescribes medicine and a treatment plan you will follow it if you want to get well and if you trust in the doctor's ability.

Well, The Great Physician has given us a prescription to heal the spiritual crisis in our land today.

We read God's prescription plan in our lesson from 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 7:14.

You see God has put the responsibility for healing a nation on His people! Yes, th

at is us! It is up to us as God's people to humble ourselves, to pray, to seek God's face, to turn from our evil ways, and to depend upon God to heal America of hatred, crime, drugs pornography, promiscuous sex, racism, corruption, etc.

Proverbs 14:34 clearly tells us; ***"Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a disgrace to any people."***

There are several very powerful lessons for us in Asa's story.

The first lesson is that The Lord will deliver us from our enemies when we seek The Lord, pray, repent, and solely depend upon The Lord.

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 14:11 states, ***"Then Asa called to The Lord his God and said, "LORD, there is no one like you to help the powerless against the mighty. Help us, LORD our God, for we rely on you, and in your name we have come against this vast army. LORD, you are our God; do not let mere mortals prevail against you."***

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 14:12 tells us, ***"The Lord struck down the Cushites before Asa and Judah."***

Listen again to these powerful promises in 2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 15:2; ***"The Lord is with you when you are with Him. If you seek Him He will be found by you, but if you forsake Him, He will forsake you."***

The second lesson for us is Asa and the people of Judah took The Lord's word seriously.

After the prophet Azariah spoke to Asa, Asa began to remove the places of idol worship and repaired the temple of The Lord.

What about us.

Is our life changed after we hear God's word proclaimed to us?

Do we change our behavior when God speaks to us through His word?

James 1:22 states; ***“Do not merely listen to the word, and so deceive yourselves. Do what it says.”***

When we respond to God's Word The Holy Spirit molds us into the image of Jesus *Christ*.

Hebrews 4:12-13 tells us; ***“For the word of God is living and active. Sharper than any double-edged sword, it penetrates even to dividing soul and spirit, joints and marrow; it judges the thoughts and attitudes of the heart. Nothing in all creation is hidden from God's sight, everything is uncovered and laid bare before the eyes of him to whom we must give account.”***

1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 6:19 tells us ***“your body is the temple of The Holy Spirit.”***

So, the question is; *do you need to repair your spiritual temple?*

The third lesson for us is Asa led a spiritual revival in Judah.

2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 15:11 says: ***“the people sacrificed 700 head of cattle and 7,000 sheep and goats to The Lord from the plunder they brought back”.***

You see, The Lord gave those livestock to the people of Judah.

And the first thing those people did was to give a portion back to God.

Remember everything we have came from The Lord.

Deuteronomy 8:18 clearly tells us it is The Lord who gives us the ability and the opportunity to earn money.

The Lord gives to us and The Lord expects us to show our appreciation to Him by giving back a portion to Him.

This morning we all need to ask ourselves, *“What have I sacrificed to The Lord?”*

The fourth lesson for us is ***“the people entered into a covenant to seek The Lord, the God of their fathers with all their heart and soul”*** (2<sup>nd</sup> Chronicles 15:12).

When you became a Christian, you entered into a sacred covenant with The Lord.

The Lord promised to save you from the penalty of your sins and to be with you both now and throughout eternity.

Your part of this covenant was to love The Lord, to obey The Lord, and to serve The Lord.

So, the question for each of us this morning is; *“Am I totally committed to seeking The Lord with all of my heart.”*

This morning we have the privilege of celebrating the Sacrament of The Lord’s Supper.

Remember every time you receive communion you are renewing your covenant with The Lord.

*“How well are you fulfilling your covenant with The Lord?”*

God’s word to us is clear if we as Christians will turn away from our idols, repent, and return to The Lord with all of our heart, The Lord will bless us with peace in our country.

Friends we all need to get serious about only trusting in The Lord and only worshipping The One True Living God.

As Christians we all need to show the world the difference Jesus has made in our life.

The church will not make major changes in our society until our society sees a major change in the way Christians live.

As you go thru the week remember; ***“The LORD is with you when you are with him. If you seek him, he will be found by you, but if you forsake him, he will forsake you.”***

**AMEN**