

Message Mates

A People for God

2 Chronicles 19-20:4

19:1-3

Just as the prophet Jehu called Jehoshaphat out on his unholy alliance with Ahab, so we need trusted people around us to ask us the hard questions. Discerning motives on our own is difficult. We need others to point out our blind spots.

While some of us are too trusting of our own motives, others are too scrupulous and feel a sense of paralysis unless they hear a clear word from God. However, often God gives us the ability to choose. We have real agency as people made in God's image.

19:4-11

Just as Jehoshaphat went out to his people to bring them back to God, so Jesus is the people's king. He meets us where we are to draw us to the Father. He doesn't overlook any of his children or consider them unimportant.

Just as Jehoshaphat ensured that his people could access a judicial system, so Jesus is committed to bringing justice to the whole world.

All work done in the fear of the Lord is to reflect God's character. In this way all work is a spiritual act, giving great dignity to even the most menial of tasks.

20:1-4

Fasting with prayer is a way of demonstrating real dependence on the Lord. We weaken our bodies and slow our minds to show that we need God above all human strategies. As well as fasting from food, fasting from digital technologies is worth considering to aid in spiritual growth.

Questions to consider:

Do you have anyone in your life who can ask you the hard questions as you make decisions?

Could you consider giving this person or people explicit permission to call out any blind spots in your life? (Pro. 27:6 “Wounds from a friend can be trusted)

How does Jehoshaphat’s reign reveal what Jesus’ reign is like?

If all work is a spiritual act when done in the fear of the Lord to reveal his character, what does this mean for your work – both paid, volunteer, study or domestic?

What is your experience with fasting from food? How might you grow in this spiritual discipline?

Do you see value in fasting from digital technology? What might this look like for you and your household?