



House Church Study Questions Based on the SAC Sermon on January 10, 2021.

Sermon: Fix Your Eyes on God
Text: 2 Chronicles 17-19

Gathering Guidelines

-Watch Pastor Brian's intro video for this week.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0uCLtnrworY>

Take some time to worship

Play a worship song. Pray to Jesus. Be in His presence.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8lhLiLXS5qQ> (Brian Doerksen "Faithful One")

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=lcOLw3HA51Y> (Michael Janz "Majesty")

Read

2 Chronicles 17:1-6; 2 Chronicles 20:31-33

Discussion Questions

It says in 2 Chronicles 17:3 that the Lord was with Jehoshaphat 'in his early years' because he walked in the ways of his father David. David was Jehoshaphat's ancestral father, and Asa was his biological father. Jehoshaphat started out with a passionate devotion to God just like David.

But we read in 2 Chronicles 20:32 that Jehoshaphat ended his life walking in 'the ways of his father Asa.' Asa was partially devoted to God but made unholy alliances with kings who did not honor God. Jehoshaphat did exactly the same thing.

We can see how it's easy to follow the same path as Jehoshaphat. . .starting out with a zeal for God, and then over time becoming weary and losing some of that

zeal and devotion. Both Asa and Jehoshaphat put their devotion, their attention, their 'eyes' on worldly plans to accomplish kingdom business and left God to the side. God was calling them to total devotion and these two kings suffered consequences for taking their eyes off of God for provision and protection.

Question #1:

Our experiences train us to see our world, ourselves and our God in certain ways. We emphasize what we are trained to value. If we think Jesus has nothing to say about the areas of politics then we won't seek Him for direction and discernment in this area. If we think Jesus has nothing to do with our jobs and our finances, then we won't be trained to see Him as a source of guidance in these areas either.

2 Corinthians 5:7 says that we are called to live by faith and not by sight. What does this mean for you in your life? How does your faith in Jesus influence your political views? How does your faith influence your views on your finances?

Question #2:

King Jehoshaphat joined King Ahab of Israel to fight an enemy but King Ahab did not follow God and God did not approve of this.

Read 2 Chronicles 19:1-3

God acknowledges that Jehoshaphat did a wrong thing but also says in 19:3 that 'there is, however, some good in you.'

What does God's description of Jehoshaphat make you think?

- God cares a lot about obedience but is still fair?
- God sets a standard that's too high for people to live by?
- God doesn't really understand how hard it is to live in this world?
- God may be able to lead people to live holy, obedient lives?

What do you think?

Question #3:

In 2 Chronicles 17:6 Jehoshaphat is noted because '...he removed the high places and the Asherah poles from Judah.'

Asherah was a fertility goddess. Worshiping her meant endorsing and engaging in sexual practises that were not holy. The poles representing her were set on high hills overlooking the people so the people would look on them and be influenced by them.

Anything that replaces God as an object of worship is considered idolatry and this comes with serious consequences.

Read Ephesians 5:5

We see that idolatry includes immorality, impurity and greed. These are not 'idols' like we see in the Old Testament but are instead attitudes of the heart.

Jehoshaphat torn down the visible Asherah idols but later in life succumbed to greed when he joined with King Ahaziah (an ungodly king) to make a fleet of trading ships that would bring great wealth to his nation. God spoke strongly against this in 2 Chronicles 20:37 and destroyed every one of these ships.

Here is your question: In what ways might we commit idolatry in areas like our finances? In other areas of life?

Question #4

Read Ephesians 5:1-15

Read it *slowly*. Before you read it purpose yourself to really listen and allow God to speak to you through it.

After you have read it slowly and thoughtfully, then take time to talk about what things stood out to you. . .those are important for you to prayerfully consider before the Lord.

Invitation and Mission for this week

Meditate on Ephesians 15:1-15.

Allow God to teach you about what it means to have your eyes fixed on Jesus in every area of your life.

Pray for each other

Pray about the things that stood out for you in Ephesians 5:1-15.