

## ALL IN!

Scripture used: [II Chronicles 17:1-6 \(ESV\)](#)

### OVERVIEW

Today we are blessed with a guest pastor, the Rev. Dr. Mike Romberger. He runs the [Mount Hermon Retreat Center](#) in the Santa Cruz Mountains, where thousands of Christians gather each year in fellowship. It's named after the mountain in Israel where people gathered to be close to God. Pastor Mike took over Mount Hermon in 2015, and recently, he traveled back to Colorado to visit with longtime friends. These close friends set an example of what it means to be all in for God. They live out their great faith by leaning on the Lord each day in prayer. They give their money at a sacrificial level. They mentor young people, couples, and families. And they're willing to take on tough leadership roles in the community. This may seem like too much of a burden for you and me. We may be intimidated when we hear about people taking their commitment to follow Jesus so seriously. The truth is, this is the lifestyle for which God designed us. We were made to be all in for Him! That is why we are here on this earth. The question that Pastor Mike wants us to consider together is "How do we live a life that is all in for God?" For the answer, we turn to the Bible and the story of Jehoshaphat. This king of Judah lived in a troubled time, much like our own. He had to deal with idols to Baal, a local deity who promised help with sexual pleasure, child-rearing, and economic success. These false idols tempted people away from God, and Jehoshaphat dedicated his life to finding ways to help others be all in for God the same way he was.

### KEY POINTS

1. **To be all in with God, we must seek Him.** Jehoshaphat inherited the kingdom from his father Asa, who also had a heart for God. Jehoshaphat learned the importance of seeking God with his whole heart, as it says in [Psalms 119:9-10 \(ESV\)](#). This is critical because [Jeremiah 29:13 \(ESV\)](#) tells us that complete commitment to God is the only way to find Him. By seeking Him, Jehoshaphat came to understand God's many roles, as a protector, provider, giver, and more. He came to trust in God completely, and to be careful with earthly pleasures. Jehoshaphat knew that success could not replace God.
2. **To be all in with God, we must obey Him.** [Hebrews 11:6 \(ESV\)](#) reminds us about the power of practicing our faith. Jehoshaphat realized that he had to obey God's ways, and that often meant disobeying the ways of the world. Because of his obedience, he had to endure isolation. Like many other people in the Bible, God asked Jehoshaphat to be a part of His plan to redeem the world and that made his life harder. There are challenges that come with obeying God. We will have to freely choose to make sacrifices because we understand that He is a good God who loves us and will always care for us.
3. **To be all in with God, we must be courageous for Him.** Courage is the natural result of seeking and obeying God. We will face what needs to be faced. We will do what needs to be done. Jehoshaphat tore down the idols around Judah that symbolized a good life to many of his subjects. Why? Because he took people's spiritual condition seriously, and he knew that his point of accountability was different from the surrounding culture. He saw them trying to replace God with worldly things, and he knew his responsibility of leadership meant that he needed to guide the people of Judah in God's ways, regardless of the consequences. Seeking God, growing in trust in Him, obeying Him, and living courageously is what it means to be all in.

### DISCUSSION

- 1) **HEAR** - In 2015, Pastor Mike found a series of letters he wrote his parents when he was 23 years old. In these letters, he shared about his profound faith and his new relationship with the woman who would become his wife. Pastor Mike challenged himself to be that same guy, with that same passionate faith and courage, despite the years of obstacles and challenges. He knew he needed to deepen his search for God, his willingness to obey God, and his courage to lead others in the world no matter the consequences. How passionate are you for God now relative to the past? If your passion level has changed, why do you think that is?
- 2) **UNDERSTAND** - We are all facing different circumstances in life, perhaps nothing like Jehoshaphat. That's completely okay. There is no right way to be all in for God, but each of us can prayerfully search our heart for an answer to the question "What's keeping me from being all in?" Take some time to think about what being "all in" would look like in your life right now, and share with your life group.
- 3) **DO** - Pray to God for courage to take a practical step towards being "all in." Ask Him to work on you from the inside out, to seek Him, to obey Him, and to be courageous for Him.