

Under The Surface| Part 3 | The Gift of Limits

ONLINE RECORDING

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GIVING TIME:

4 WAYS TO GIVE

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SERIES: Under The Surface

- ICEBERG
- Rivets
- Under The Surface

TODAY: The Gift of Limits

- “How are you?”
- BUSY!
- = a badge of honor

Theology of limits

- Genesis - all trees are to be eaten of BUT that ONE (limit)
- Sabbath
- Rest the Field

- Exile

We like to think of our self as **limitless**

We like to celebrate people who **overcome limitations**

Limits, when embraced can be a gift,
a pathway to something beyond our effort, something else:

GOD HIMSELF

INTRO OF TOPIC & BRIDGE CONNECTION

ILL. Zootopia: You can do or be anything you want

- Two foxes - “He loves all things elephant... [and you little guy, you wanna be an elephant when you grow up, you be an elephant](#), because this is zootopia where anyone can be anything.”
- Zootopia - where anyone can be anything.
- School: you can be the president
- America: rags to riches, explore the new, space discovery
- **ILL. Scott - NOT A JOCKEY**
 - Wikipedia - Jockey - Though there is no height limit for jockeys, they are usually fairly short due to the weight limits. Jockeys typically stand **around 4 ft 10 in (147 cm) to 5 ft 7 in (170 cm)**

TYPES OF LIMITS

A. HUMAN LIMITATIONS:

- YOU HAVE LIMITS - HUMAN NOT GOD
- Finite
- Time & Space
- Bodies die

B. GOD PLACED LIMITATIONS:

- God has limits for us.
 - (Don't eat from that tree)

- (Height, giftings, athletic ability, skills)

C. CHARACTER LIMITATIONS

- Arriving at a desired destination without

D. SEASON/TIMING LIMITATIONS

30 years anonymous - Jesus

You can not be and do whatever you want:

you are a human, He is God

You are not ultimately all sufficient

I like being limitless because I like to FEEL/Be in charge

Types of LIMIT VIOLATION:

- Relationships - not spoken, then “moral” permission to recourse
- Time -
- Energy -
- Responsibility Hoarders -
- Stewardship
 - Time
 - Talent
 - Treasure

Q: What are your limit violations in this season?

Limits in this season are:

- Things that are hard
- Things that create struggle or resentment
 - Children raising
 - Children with special needs
 - Caring for an aging parent and their needs
 - Emotions (prone to depression, isolation, anger)
 - Scars from the past

- Physical Body - ailments
- Single
- Married
- Season of life
 - Teenager
 - 20s
 - Middle aged
 - Golden Girls
- Human intellectual capacity
- Spiritual limitations - giftings & talents
- Past failures - criminal records
- Past decisions
- English not first language - immigration
- Papers - citizenship
- Financial limitations - debt
- Extraversion & Introversion
- Detailers & Creatives

WRITE THEM DOWN

- Shamed by them
- Hide them
- Deny them

or

- Embraced them
- Celebrated them
- Informed by them

Man with the Withered Hand

Luke 6:10

And after looking around at them all he said to him, “Stretch out your hand.” And he did so, and his hand was restored.

**You have to be honest, acknowledge and yield up the
withered thing before it is healed...**

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

7 or because of these surpassingly great revelations. Therefore, in order to keep me from becoming conceited, I was given a thorn in my flesh, a messenger of Satan, to torment me. 8 Three times I pleaded with the Lord to take it away from me. 9 But he said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for my power is made perfect in weakness." Therefore I will boast all the more gladly about my weaknesses, so that Christ's power may rest on me. 10 That is why, for Christ's sake, I delight in weaknesses, in insults, in hardships, in persecutions, in difficulties. For when I am weak, then I am strong.

Paul - greatest Christian ever?

- Corinthian Leaders:
 - "Paul, can't even speak well... listen to us instead."
- Paul Response:
 - "I could speak out of my exceedingly great revelations... but I choose to boast instead in my weaknesses."

Thorn in the Flesh:

- A physical ailment
- An emotional or spiritual weakness (anger, enneagram 8)
- Massive amounts of people who want to kill him

"In order to keep my from being conceited - God allowed this..."

Pride = acting in my ability independently of God

Humility = being pressed to the ground: depending on God

ILL. A small drowning man - 4 grown men afraid of getting drowned.

- Why?
- Was the drawing man super smart?
- Super strong?
- He was in desperate need and that equated to a kind of ability that was uncommon
- This is a negative example, but if you take it in inverse
- Our KNOWLEDGE of OUR DESPERATION/LIMITS/NEED equate to power...

Knowledge of our desperate NEED EQUATES TO POWER

You won't understand NEED until you understand LIMITS

When we are limited we look & listen for the One who isn't

1. LIMITS ARE A GIFT

2 Corinthians 4:7-11

7 But we have this treasure in jars of clay to show that this all-surpassing power is from God and not from us. 8 We are hard pressed on every side, but not crushed; perplexed, but not in despair; 9 persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed. 10 We always carry around in our body the death of Jesus, so that the life of Jesus may also be revealed in our body. 11 For we who are alive are always being given over to death for Jesus' sake, so that his life may also be revealed in our mortal body.

Remember the sabbath day, and keep it holy. Six days you shall labor and do all your work. But the seventh day is a sabbath to the Lord your God; you shall not do any work—you, your son or your daughter, your male or female slave, your livestock, or the alien resident in your towns. For in six days the Lord made heaven and earth, the sea, and all that is in them, but rested the seventh day; therefore the Lord blessed the sabbath day and consecrated it. (**Exod. 20:8-11**)

- Jesus tells NT religious leaders -
 - Man wasn't made for sabbath (to keep a law)
 - Sabbath was made for man (as a gift)

Mark 2:27

Then he said to them, “The Sabbath was made for man, not man for the Sabbath.

2. LIMITS ARE A DELIGHT

2 Corinthians 12:7-10

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ILL. I boast in pictures of my kids

- Show pictures off my phone
- Would I show pictures of my limitations/weaknesses?
 - “Check this out!”
- That is what Paul is talking about

We may not “verbally” boast in our weaknesses much, but a way we can “boast” is to be honest with ourselves about our limitations and weaknesses - and work within those human and God limitations.

3. LIMITS ARE A DOOR

We think of limits as a wall or a STOPPERS

What if they were doorways and go-ers?

Apostle Paul stronger writer - weak speaker, physically small, in prison

- Those limitations led to him writing $\frac{2}{3}$ of New Testament!
- We can record voice now, but they didn’t back then
- Billions of people benefitting from Paul’s limitations

Our hands have opposable thumbs, which means we are designed to handle things, do delicate work, pick up objects and use them. We might be more limited in speed

than a cheetah, but our thumbs allow us to become creators and artists. The limit tells us who we are and what we're meant to do. - The body is God's Design

THAT OPEN THE WAY TO

- Humility
- Depth of communion with Jesus
- Revelation of Jesus
- His Direction
 - He is using limits to get you to a certain path - a road
- His Mission
 - How do I use what is in my hand instead of chasing what isn't
- His Power

2 Corinthians 12:9-10

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Christian spirituality, the contemplative life, is not about us. It is about God. The great weakness of American spirituality is that it is all about us: fulfilling our potential, getting the blessings of God, expanding our influence, finding our gifts, getting a handle on principles by which we can get an edge over the competition. The more there is of us, the less there is of God. - Eugene Peterson

"Jesus appears to have walked unstressed and unhurried. His peaceful pace seems to imply that **he measured himself** not by where he was going and how fast he could get there but by whom he was following and how closely they walked together."

- Alicia Britt Chole, Anonymous: Jesus' Hidden Years ... and Yours

We get lost in how the world sees us & miss what God is doing around us.

What's on your paper?

- Is it a gift?
- Can you delight in it?
- What room might that door be inviting you into?

PRAY FOR ...
SPIRITUAL IMPARTATION

BELIEVERS ALTER CALL

SALVATION ALTER CALL

- Element to 97000
 - Next Steps Form | Text "Element" to 97000
 - Find someone with a lanyard
 - Commitment/Salvation Info Today
 - Come see prayer teams at the front
 - Fresh Start Book + Bible to get you started
 - New Here Lunch (Next Steps Form)