

too busy **NOT** to pray

Scriptures:

Joshua 6:1-5 (NASB)

The Conquest of Jericho

Now Jericho was tightly shut because of the sons of Israel; no one went out and no one came in. The Lord said to Joshua, "See, I have given Jericho into your hand, with its king and the valiant warriors. You shall march around the city, all the men of war circling the city once. You shall do so for six days. Also seven priests shall carry seven trumpets of rams' horns before the ark; then on the seventh day you shall march around the city seven times, and the priests shall blow the trumpets. It shall be that when they make a long blast with the ram's horn, and when you hear the sound of the trumpet, all the people shall shout with a great shout; and the wall of the city will fall down [a]flat, and the people will go up every man [b]straight ahead."

Points:

- God is still looking for circle makers.
- Bold prayers honor God, and God honors bold prayers.
- We have to learn to be circle makers: to circle off something, claim it, and watch God work in our lives.
- God is for you.
- Your prayers are the best prediction of your future.
- The problem is most of us never draw circles, but instead we draw blanks.
- Keep circling until God gives you what He wants.
- Big and bold prayers get the attention of God.

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Sermon: Too Busy Not To Pray: part 5

Notes:

The Scene of the story of Honi: This is the generation before Jesus birth. There is a drought that has destroyed all crops and animals and is now threatening to kill off the children of Israel. The last of Jewish prophets have died off, and 400 years have passed since the last sign of any miracles. Everyone is beginning to lose faith except for one man, Honi- he dared to pray.

The Story of Honi: Honi was a man who believe in the power of God. He came to God in prayer on behalf of the children of Israel to cry out for rain, mercy, and favor from God. This is what he did: Honi marked off a circle in the dust with his rod, then dropped to his knees and lifted up His hands to pray. He told God he would not leave the circle until He showed His mercy to His children. This was a bold prayer because no one had heard from God in 400 years. It wasn't long after this prayer that rain drops began to fall. It was only sprinkling, so Honi stayed in the circle, raised his rod, and cried out to God saying that this is not the rain he pray for. He prayed for a down pour of rain. Jewish scholars believe that on that day no rain drop fell less than the size of an egg. Many people also believe that this prayer saved the children of Israel.

Application:

God is still looking for circle makers- people that will dare to pray a bold prayer and honor God. Bold prayers honor God, and God honors bold prayers. God isn't intimidated or offended by big dreams and bold prayers. In fact, if your prayers are possible for you then they're are probably offensive to God.

Examples of BIG faith in the Bible:

When Moses asked for God to part the Red Sea.

When the prophet asked for the sun to stand still.

When the prophet asked for the ax head to float.

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Notes:

God loves performing miracles in your life. He loves to see your dreams fulfilled. This is what God does. He does the impossible. Dream a big dream, and then watch what God will do in your life.

Many of us are praying prayers that put us to sleep. We have to learn to be circle makers: to circle off something, claim it, and watch God work in our lives.

Understanding the following statement will change the way you think and pray: God is for you. Until you believe that, you will pray timid and boring prayers. When you learn that God is for you, you are inviting the presence of the almighty God into your situation to do something BIG in your life.

Prayers are prophecies:

Your prayers are the best prediction of your future. The reason some of us aren't going anywhere is because we aren't praying. Who you become is determined by how you pray. Stop worrying about how people classify and if they qualify you, and realize that God is for you. The transcript of your prayer will become the script of your life.

Story of the Conquest of Jericho (Joshua 6:1-5 NASB) :

The prophet Joshua is leading the children into the promise land, but they have run into a roadblock: the walled city of Jericho. Jericho was fortified and untouchable. For six days, the children of Jericho walked around the city of Jericho in complete silence. On the seventh day, the children of Israel marched around the city seven times and on the seventh time, they blew their trumpets and the walls of Jericho came down. In seven days, God fulfilled a four-hundred year promise to the children of Israel that the walls of Jericho would come down.

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Sermon: Too Busy Not To Pray: part 5

Notes:

The problem: Most of us have never circled any of the promises that God has given us. Most of us have never defined success, written our life goals down, or even dared to dream. The problem is most of us never draw circles, but instead we draw blanks.

The question: What is your Jericho?

The answer: Keep circling until God gives you what He wants.

Step by step instruction:

1. Define the promises that God wants you to stake claim to.
2. Draw your circle around the promises and fall to your knees praying boldly.
3. Keep circling until God fulfills His promise to you.

The reason so many of us pray boring prayers is because we have not defined our Jericho and we have not circled the promises of God. If you're bored with your prayer and your vision, then God is bored with your prayer and vision. Big and bold prayers get the attention of God.

If God met you face to face and asked you, "What do you want ME to do?", could you spell it out? Do you have it written down? Do you have your circle drawn?

Prayer:

God, I thank you that my prayers are prophecies. I thank you that I am tomorrow what I pray today. Increase my faith and give me the audacity to pray more boldly than ever before. I ask that you give me faith that endures through the drought. Help me and strengthen me to circle your promises ever day of my life. In Jesus's name, Amen.