



NO LIMITS

WITH PASTOR DELMAN

DON'T STEP ON YOUR ROOTS



S E R M O N G U I D E

NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

Don't Step On Your Roots

Deuteronomy 2:4-6

INTRODUCTION

On a recent trip, some of us had the chance to visit Kakum National Park in Ghana. To experience the famous canopy walk, you first have to hike up a steep, difficult hill. Our guide, Yao, pointed out the massive, ancient tree roots that crisscrossed the path. As we navigated the rough terrain, he paused and gave a simple, profound instruction: "In order to make it safely and successfully up this mountain, please don't step on the roots!" That phrase captured my attention, because it's a key to life, not just for a hike in the rainforest, but for our journey as a people.

Like that group climbing the hill, we as a people are climbing mountains of systemic racism, structural inequality, and economic deprivation. If we are going to make it to the top, we cannot step on our roots. This is the same wisdom God gave the Israelites through Moses. As they prepared to move toward the Promised Land, God gave them specific instructions about how to treat the people and the land they passed through. To go forward into their future, they had to remember where they came from. They had to build a community that did not mirror the oppression they had left behind.

KEY POINTS

1. Don't Step on the Roots of Our History

The Pan-African leader Marcus Garvey said, "A people without a knowledge of their history...is like a tree without roots." Our history is sacred. It provides the evidence that we refused to become what oppression tried to make us. The danger of progress is that you can achieve so much you start believing you did it all by yourself. That is not liberation, it is amnesia. The Akan people of Ghana have a word, *Sankofa*, which means "to go back and get." It symbolizes the wisdom of learning from the past to build the future. When we move forward, we must look back long enough to stay grateful, grounded, and accountable, letting the memory of our ancestors fuel our future.

Your success is not a solo achievement. It is built on prayers you did not pray and sacrifices you did not make. If you advance in life thinking you did it by yourself, you are stepping on your roots. If you become ashamed of where you came from, you are stepping on your roots. Take time this week to learn a story from your family's or community's past. Honor the struggles and survival strategies of those who came before you. Let their resilience remind you that you are part of an underground network of sacred messengers, and carry their legacy forward with reverence and gratitude.

NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

Don't Step On Your Roots

Deuteronomy 2:4-6

2. Don't Step on the Roots of Our Democracy

God's instruction to Israel to pay for food and water was about more than a transaction. It was about justice, fairness, and acknowledging the rights of others. God was teaching them that possessing the land was rooted in a commitment to provide access to others. The Promised Land was meant to be inclusive for all, not exclusive to some. If Israel entered the land and reproduced the exploitation they had escaped, they would not have truly left slavery. They would have merely changed addresses. This speaks directly to our fight for a just and fair democracy today.

Our faith calls us to create a world where justice rolls down like waters. This is not a political issue, it is a spiritual one. The enemies of progress depend on our silence and our fear. But God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind. Our democracy is worth fighting for. We struggle with our bodies and our ballots. We insist that laws be applied fairly. We demand equal justice, fair pay, and human dignity for all. Do not sit idly by while others try to decide our destiny. Fighting for our freedom is an expression of our faith.

3. Don't Step on the Roots of Our Faith

As the Israelites prepared to enter Canaan, God's deepest desire was to form in them a devotion to the One who brought them out of bondage. The entire journey was about deepening their faith. The greatest danger awaiting them was not an external enemy, but the internal temptation to forget God once they became successful. The text warns, "Do not say to yourself, 'My power and the might of my own hand have gotten me this wealth.' But remember the Lord your God, for it is he who gives you power to get wealth." God was not just delivering them into land. He was delivering them into a relationship with Him.

We have come this far by faith, leaning on the Lord. We did not make it by our education, affiliations, or associations alone. We made it by faith. As you move forward and achieve your goals, take care that you do not forget the God who brought you through. Don't get delivered and forget who blessed you. Cultivate a posture of humility and gratitude. Your faith is the root that grounds you in God's presence, reminding you that before He gave you the promise, He gave you Himself. Rest in that relationship, and you will find the strength to climb any mountain without losing your soul.

NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

Don't Step On Your Roots

Deuteronomy 2:4-6

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what ways can you actively learn from and honor the history of your family and community to better inform your future?
2. What is one concrete step you can take this week to advocate for justice and fairness in our society, ensuring that progress does not come at the expense of others?
3. How can you cultivate a daily habit of remembering God as the source of your strength and success, especially when you achieve a long-sought-after goal?
