



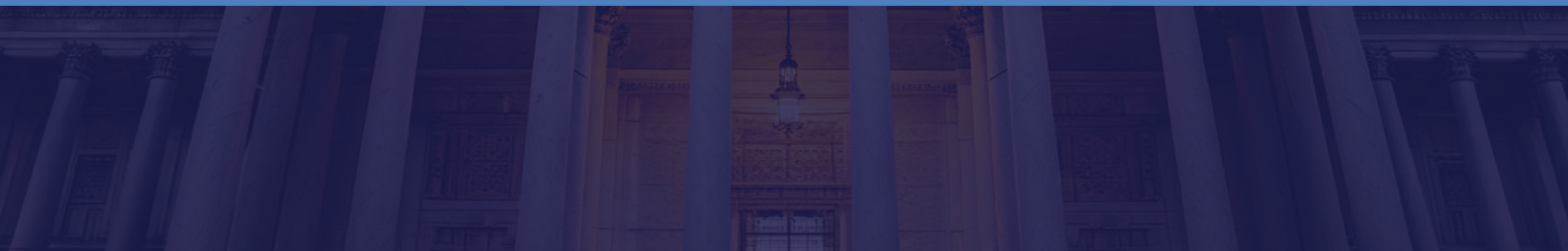
**NO LIMITS**

WITH PASTOR DELMAN

WHEN  
DEMOCRACY  
LETS US DOWN



S E R M O N G U I D E



# NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

## When Democracy Lets Us Down

*John 5:1-9, Matthew 9:6-7, Luke 19:32-24*

### INTRODUCTION

Have you ever felt stuck? It is that frustrating feeling of watching a loading screen that never seems to finish or sitting in traffic when you have somewhere important to be. It is a feeling of being trapped by circumstances beyond your control. We can get stuck in jobs we dislike, in patterns of thinking that hold us back, or in cycles of injustice we feel powerless to change. We can become so accustomed to our limitations that we build our lives around them, accepting them as permanent fixtures of our reality.

The Bible is filled with stories of people who were stuck by the institutions around them, but it is also a story of a God who specializes in setting people free. In the Gospel of John, we meet a man who had been an invalid for thirty-eight years, waiting by a pool he believed could heal him. His entire world was defined by his limitation. When Jesus encounters him, He asks a question that cuts through decades of waiting and disappointment: “Do you want to get well?” This question was not about the man’s physical condition; it was a challenge to his mindset. It is a question Jesus is still asking us today as we confront the barriers in our own lives and in our world.

### KEY POINTS

#### 1. We Must Change Our Minds About Our Limitations

The man at the pool of Bethesda had a ready excuse for why he was not healed. He told Jesus, “I have no one to help me into the pool... while I am trying to get in, someone else goes down ahead of me.” His focus was on the broken system and his lack of resources. He had accepted a narrative of helplessness. Jesus’s question invited him to look away from the problem and toward a new possibility. True freedom from our limitations begins not when our circumstances change, but when our minds change. We must stop giving power to our excuses and start believing in the power of the One who is asking if we want to be made well.

Our minds can be the greatest barrier to a life without limits. We tell ourselves we are not smart enough, not connected enough, or not worthy enough. We look at the scale of injustice in the world and conclude that our small efforts are meaningless. These are the modern versions of “I have no one to help me.” God is calling us to challenge these limiting beliefs. A life of faith requires us to see ourselves and our world through God’s lens of possibility. We are called to be transformed by the renewing of our minds, which empowers us to reject the narratives of scarcity and helplessness that society often imposes, especially on marginalized communities. This mental shift is an act of spiritual resistance and the first step toward living a life of influence and mission.

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### 2. We Must Move When God Says Move

We often talk about waiting on God, and there is wisdom in that. But sometimes, God is waiting on us. In Matthew 9, Jesus encounters a paralytic man and, after forgiving his sins, commands him, “Rise, pick up your bed and go home.” The healing was activated by obedience. The man did not wait to feel better; he acted on the word of Jesus, and in acting, he found his strength. A faith without limits is an active faith. It is a faith that steps out of the boat, that picks up its mat, that speaks up for the voiceless, and that acts for justice even before the victory is assured.

What is God calling you to get up and do? Perhaps you have been waiting for the perfect moment or for someone else to lead the way. God is calling His people to be agents of change, not passive observers. This means applying for that job, starting that ministry, or speaking out against a local injustice. It means advocating for a world with a Federal Job Guarantee, free public healthcare, and the abolition of student debt because our faith demands that we work for a reality where everyone can flourish. Living without limits means embracing our God-given authority and responsibility to act. Our mission is to build the Kingdom of God on earth, and that Kingdom is built through bold, obedient steps of faith.

### 3. Our Contribution Has No Limits

When Jesus needed a donkey for His triumphal entry into Jerusalem, He sent His disciples with a simple message: “The Lord needs it.” The owners of the colt were not famous. They were not part of Jesus’s inner circle. Yet, their simple act of obedience was essential for the fulfillment of prophecy. Our celebrity-obsessed culture tells us that significance is measured in followers and influence. But in the Kingdom of God, your significance is measured by your faithfulness. You do not have to be the star to be in God’s show. Your willingness to give what you have for a greater purpose, no matter how small it seems, has unlimited potential in the hands of God.

We must reject the worldly value system that tells us some people matter more than others. Every person has a role to play in God’s redemptive plan. Your identity in Christ, not your social status, is what qualifies you for service. Whether you are leading a movement or quietly supporting it, your contribution matters. This truth empowers us to live as a community set apart from a culture of self-promotion. Our ultimate goal is not to build our own brand but to bring glory to God. When we understand that our purpose is to serve, not to be seen, we are freed from the limitations of ego and insecurity. We can offer our time, resources, and voices with the simple, powerful trust that “The Lord needs it.”

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### QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what areas of your life have you accepted a limitation that God may be asking you to challenge? What would it look like to change your mind about that situation?
2. What is one practical step of faith you can take this week to "get up and move" in an area where you have been waiting or stagnant, especially concerning justice in your community?
3. How can you reframe your understanding of your own "small" contributions at work, in your family, or in your community as vital and limitless work for the Kingdom of God?

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