

“Branches Over the Wall”

Summary

In this powerful message, we're invited to explore the profound picture of branches running over walls, drawing from the prophecy of Joseph in Genesis 49.

We're reminded that, like Joseph, we're planted by the well of God's presence, we too are rooted in Christ, drawing strength from His living water, nurtured and protected. However, our growth isn't meant to be contained – we're called to extend our influence beyond the safety of our walls. This message challenges us to recognize the unique role we play in God's kingdom, especially as women of faith. It encourages us to embrace our spiritual authority and to boldly pursue the inheritance God has for us, much like the daughters of Zelophehad in Numbers 27. As we drink deeply from God's presence, we're empowered to overcome opposition, silence the 'noise of the archers,' and courageously step into our divine calling. This teaching invites us to see ourselves as extensions of Christ, ready to impact the world beyond our comfortable boundaries.

It's a call to action, urging us to break free from limitations and fears, trusting in the security we have in Christ to boldly pursue our spiritual inheritance.

Summary: The sermon explored the prophecy of Joseph in Genesis 49, drawing parallels between Joseph's fruitfulness and our own calling as women in the church. It emphasized how we, like branches of a fruitful tree, are positioned to grow beyond our current boundaries and make a significant impact for God's kingdom. The message highlighted the importance of staying rooted in Christ while courageously extending our influence beyond our comfort zones.

Takeaways:

- We are positioned by the well of living water (God's presence) for growth and fruitfulness.
- Despite opposition (the archers), God strengthens us and uses challenges to build our confidence in Him.
- As branches running over the wall, we are called to boldly step into new territories of influence and ministry.

The message was a powerful reminder of our unique role in God's plan. It encouraged us to embrace our identity as daughters of the King, secure in His love, and empowered to make His word public. Let's continue to support one another as we step out in faith, knowing that our actions today are paving the way for future generations of believers.

May we all be inspired to "run through a troop and leap over a wall" in pursuit of God's calling on our lives.

Main Points – Branches over the Wall

Title: Branches Over the Wall: Women's Destiny in God's End-Time Army

Sermon Summary: This sermon explores the prophetic role of women in God's end-time plan, using the prophecy over Joseph as a metaphor. The speaker emphasizes that God is nurturing and strengthening women like branches of a fruitful tree, preparing them to extend beyond their current boundaries (walls) to impact the world. Despite opposition (archers), these women are called to confidently pursue their divine inheritance and purpose, drawing strength from their close relationship with God.

Key Points:

- Joseph as a type of Christ, with his "branches" (daughters) extending over the wall
- The importance of being planted by the well (God's presence) for spiritual growth
- Overcoming opposition and drawing strength from God in the face of adversity
- The call for women to boldly claim their spiritual inheritance and purpose
- The balance between safety within God's nurturing environment and the call to extend influence beyond it
- The importance of confidence born from security in God for effective ministry
- God's desire to use women to publish His word and bring victory

Scripture Reference:

- Genesis 49:22-26 (Prophecy over Joseph)
- Judges 5:11 (Song of Deborah)
- Psalm 68:11 (Women proclaiming the word)
- Numbers 27:1-11 (Daughters of Zelophehad)

Stories:

- The speaker's experience in Ukraine with cultural differences regarding women in ministry
- The story of the Daughters of Zelophehad claiming their inheritance
- Reference to David running through a troop and leaping over a wall (2 Samuel 22)
- Anecdote about women coordinators being appointed for a prayer event in Washington D.C.

Small Group Study Guide – Branches Over the Wall

Key Takeaways:

1. God is positioning women as "branches" to extend beyond the walls of comfort and safety.
2. There's a balance between being nurtured in a safe environment and reaching out to impact the world.
3. Opposition (the "archers") will come, but God provides strength and protection.
4. Women have a unique and vital role in publishing God's word and advancing His kingdom.

Discussion Questions:

1. The sermon uses the imagery of "branches running over the wall." What does this mean to you personally? How might God be calling you to extend beyond your comfort zone?
2. Discuss the balance between being nurtured "behind the wall" and reaching out "over the wall." How have you experienced this in your own spiritual journey?
3. The speaker mentions "archers" that try to intimidate and discourage. What are some "archers" you've faced in your life? How have you overcome them?
4. Reflect on the story of the Daughters of Zelophehad. How does their boldness inspire you? Are there areas where you need to boldly advocate for yourself or others in God's kingdom?
5. The sermon emphasizes that women have a unique role in publishing God's word. How do you see this playing out in today's church? What opportunities or challenges exist?
6. How does the idea of being "planted by a well" (near to God's presence) relate to your ability to reach out and impact others?

Practical Applications:

1. Identify one area where God might be calling you to "extend over the wall." What's one small step you can take this week to move in that direction?
2. Spend some focused time in prayer, asking God to reveal any "noise of the archers" that might be hindering you from drawing close to Him. Journal about what He shows you.
3. Find a Scripture that encourages you to be bold in your faith. Memorize it this week and share it with the group next time you meet.

4. Reflect on your spiritual gifts. How might God want to use you to "publish" His word in your sphere of influence? Brainstorm practical ways to use your gifts this month.

5. If you're struggling with feeling inadequate or unqualified, spend time meditating on the stories of women in the Bible who God used powerfully. Let their examples inspire and encourage you.

Closing Prayer:

Lord, thank you for positioning us as branches, securely connected to You but called to reach out beyond our walls. Give us the courage to extend ourselves for Your kingdom's sake. Strengthen us against the arrows of discouragement and opposition. Help us to drink deeply from Your presence so that we can effectively minister to others. Use us, Lord, as vessels to publish Your word and bring Your love to a hurting world. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Discussion Questions – Branches Over the Wall

How does the imagery of branches running over the wall relate to your personal spiritual growth and outreach? In what ways might God be calling you to extend beyond your comfort zone?

The speaker emphasizes the importance of being planted by a 'well of living water.' How do you ensure you're consistently drawing from God's presence in your daily life?

What insights can we gain from the story of the Daughters of Zelophehad about advocating for justice and claiming our spiritual inheritance?

How does the concept of 'archers' shooting at believers relate to spiritual warfare in your own life? What strategies can we employ to stand firm against these attacks?

The speaker discusses the balance between safety behind the wall and boldly going over it. How do we maintain this balance in our spiritual lives and ministries?

What are your thoughts on the speaker's interpretation of women's roles in ministry, especially in light of the verses discussed? How might this perspective challenge or affirm your current understanding?

How does the image of Joseph as a 'fruitful bough' relate to Christ and the church? In what ways are we called to be extensions of Christ's ministry?

The speaker mentions the importance of confidence in relation to the anointing. How can we cultivate God-confidence rather than self-confidence in our spiritual lives?

What lessons can we learn from Moses' response to the Daughters of Zelophehad about leadership and being open to God's guidance on difficult issues?

How does the concept of 'branches going over the wall' challenge our understanding of church community and outreach? What might this look like practically in our local contexts?

Scriptures – Branches Over the Wall

Here are the [scripture references](#) mentioned or alluded to in the sermon, along with some relevant verses for general themes discussed:

1. Genesis 49:1-2
2. Genesis 49:22-26 (Prophecy over Joseph)
3. Zechariah 2:8
4. Jeremiah 2:13
5. 2 Samuel 22:1-3
6. 2 Samuel 22:38-40
7. Psalm 68:11
8. Ephesians 5:22-25 (alluded to when discussing husband-wife relationships)
9. Numbers 27:1-11 (Story of Zelophehad's daughters)
10. Judges 5:11 (Song of Deborah)

General themes and relevant verses:

1. Branches/Vine imagery:
 - John 15:5 "I am the vine; you are the branches."
2. Archers/Warfare:
 - Ephesians 6:16 "In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one."
3. Women in ministry:
 - Joel 2:28-29 "And afterward, I will pour out my Spirit on all people. Your sons and daughters will prophesy..."
4. God as a refuge:
 - Psalm 46:1 "God is our refuge and strength, an ever-present help in trouble."
5. Overcoming obstacles:
 - Philippians 4:13 "I can do all this through him who gives me strength."
6. Inheritance in Christ:
 - Galatians 3:28-29 "There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus. If you belong to Christ, then you are Abraham's seed, and heirs according to the promise."
7. Drawing from God's presence:
 - James 4:8 "Draw near to God, and he will draw near to you."

Devotional – Branches Over the Wall

Here's a 5-day Bible reading plan and devotional guide based on the themes from the transcription:

Day 1: Planted by the Well

Reading: John 15:1-8

Devotional: Just as Joseph was described as a "fruitful bough by a well," we too are called to be planted firmly in Christ, our living water. Today's reading reminds us that Jesus is the true vine, and we are the branches. When we abide in Him, drawing our strength and nourishment from His presence, we bear much fruit. Reflect on areas of your life where you may have drifted from the well. How can you intentionally position yourself to drink deeply from God's presence today? Remember, our fruitfulness is not about striving, but about remaining connected to the source of all life.

Day 2: Overcoming Adversity

Reading: 2 Corinthians 4:7-18

Devotional: The sermon spoke of archers grieving and shooting at Joseph, yet his strength remained. Similarly, Paul describes how we face troubles on every side, yet we are not crushed or in despair. Our adversities, rather than defeating us, can become the very means by which God's power is displayed in our lives. Consider a challenge you're currently facing. How might God be using this difficulty to strengthen you and reveal His glory? Take heart in knowing that these temporary troubles are achieving for us an eternal glory that far outweighs them all.

Day 3: Branches Over the Wall

Reading: Acts 1:8 and Matthew 28:18-20

Devotional: The image of branches running over the wall speaks to our calling to extend beyond our comfort zones with the message of Christ. Jesus commissions us to be His witnesses, reaching out to those around us and even to the ends of the earth. This outward focus is not just for a select few, but for all believers. What "walls" might be containing your influence for Christ? Ask God to give you a vision for how He might want to use you to reach others. Remember, as you step out in faith, you carry with you the power of the Holy Spirit.

Day 4: Claiming Your Inheritance

Reading: Ephesians 1:3-14

Devotional: The story of Zelophehad's daughters reminds us of the importance of claiming our spiritual inheritance. In Christ, we have been blessed with every spiritual blessing in the heavenly realms. Yet sometimes, like these women, we need to step forward in faith to lay hold of what God has for us. Spend time meditating on the rich inheritance described in today's passage. Which of these blessings do you need to more fully embrace in your life? Thank God for His lavish grace and ask Him to help you live in the reality of your position as His beloved child.

Day 5: Strength in Weakness

Reading: 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

Devotional: The sermon touched on how God often chooses to work through those perceived as weak, particularly highlighting the strength He imparts to women in ministry. Paul's words remind us that God's power is made perfect in our weakness. When we feel inadequate or face opposition, these are opportunities for God's strength to shine through us. Reflect on areas where you feel weak or ill-equipped. How might God be inviting you to rely more fully on His grace in these areas? Embrace the paradox that when you are weak, then you are strong in Christ.