

"Circle Maker Prayer" (Joshua 6:1-20)

Summary

In this practical message from the "Prayer That Works" series, Pastor Missy uses the story of Joshua and the battle of Jericho—where God commanded silent marches around an "impossible" walled city for six days, followed by seven circles, trumpet blasts, and a shout of faith on the seventh day, causing the walls to collapse—to teach believers how to become **Circle Makers**: those who draw a focused, persistent prayer circle around one God-sized promise or impossibility, refusing to stop praying until God answers or reveals differently. Emphasizing trust in God's word over visible circumstances, the sermon stresses bold, specific, Scripture-anchored persistence (not manipulation), obedience to daily "laps" (actions God prompts), and consistency, challenging listeners to pick one personal "wall" (e.g., a wayward loved one, addiction, marriage issue, or calling) and commit to 70 days of daily prayer using a provided template, trusting God for breakthroughs that build deeper faith.

Sermon Notes

Title: Circle Maker Prayer (or implied: Becoming a Circle Maker) **Scripture:** Joshua 6:1-20 (key focus: God's past-tense promise "I have delivered Jericho," silent marches for 6 days, 7 circles + shout on day 7, walls collapse) **Series:** Prayer That Works – practical, tangible tools for effective prayer.

I. The Story of Jericho: Faith Over Impossibility

- Jericho's walls represented an impenetrable barrier to the Promised Land—no siege weapons, no human strategy.
- God spoke in past tense: "See, I have delivered Jericho into your hands" (v. 2) – faith sees victory before evidence.
- Instructions: March silently once daily for 6 days (with armed men, priests, trumpets, ark); 7 times on day 7, then shout → walls fall flat.
- Silence was key: Prevented doubt, complaints, discouragement; fostered focused, faith-filled posture (likely prayerful dependence).
- Walls fell after: God's word, obedient persistence, the shout of faith.

II. Core Principle: Trust God's Word Over What You See

- Choice: Trust visible walls or God's promise?
- Faith allows seeing in advance (Hebrews-like faith).
- Bold, persistent, faith-fueled prayer moves God, changes us, shifts perspective.
- Not manipulation ("pray hard enough = God owes me") → trust: Taking God at His word (e.g., Luke 18 persistent widow parable; Matthew 7:7 "Ask, seek, knock").

III. Circle Makers Defined (Inspired by Mark Batterson)

- Someone who draws a prayer circle around a God-sized promise/dream/fear and refuses to stop praying until God answers or redirects.
- They see the wall but don't let it have the last word—stand on God's promises.
- Prayers: Clear, focused, persistent (not vague/occasional).

IV. Six Practical Steps to Become a Circle Maker

1. **Pick One Circle** – Choose one specific "wall"/impossibility (e.g., loved one's salvation, marriage healing, addiction freedom, financial breakthrough, unheeded calling). Name it clearly; write it down. (Not 15—focus!)
2. **Attach a Promise from Scripture** – Find/attach a Bible promise related to it (OK to search/Google). Pray God's word, not just wants.
3. **Pray It Daily** – Build & pray the same focused prayer every day for 70 days (till Easter). Use template:
 - Praise: "God, You are able... Nothing is too hard for You."
 - Circle: "I draw a circle around [specific issue]."
 - Promise: "Your word says [scripture reference]."
 - Ask: "Break through every barrier; do what only You can."
 - Surrender: "I surrender my timeline/control; trust Your promise."
 - Obey: "Show my next step today; help me respond in obedience."
4. **Do the Lap** – Obey any "next step" nudge (e.g., apologize, join recovery, tithe, invite someone, read specific Scripture, serve). Often unconventional—like silent marching. Pray + obey.
5. **Keep a Jericho Journal** – Log daily prayers, nudges, breakthroughs (even small/incremental/hindsight ones). Review if needed.
6. **Don't Stop on the Sixth Lap** – Persistence key; many breakthroughs on the "seventh." Deeper consistency > louder voice. Don't quit when no visible change.

Application & Response

- Handout: Sheet for notes + pre-translated prayers based on common walls/promises.
- Invitation: Quiet response time—pick circle, start praying now (stand/sit/kneel).
- Expect: Testimonies of breakthroughs → praise, deeper trust in God's faithfulness.

Reflection Questions for Further Thought

1. What is one specific "wall" or impossibility in your life right now that feels impenetrable? If you were to draw a prayer circle around just one promise from God for it, what Scripture would you anchor to, and how might committing to daily persistent prayer change your perspective or actions?
2. Recall a time when you prayed persistently (or stopped too soon) and saw (or missed) a breakthrough. How does the Jericho story challenge you to trust God's timing and obey unexpected "laps" rather than relying on visible progress?
3. In what ways have your prayers sometimes been vague or short-lived? How could adopting the Circle Maker approach—specific, Scripture-based, obedient persistence—deepen your faith and relationship with God over the next 70 days?

