

SMALL GROUPS

Sermon Overview

Pastor Mack explored Joshua's audacious prayer for the sun to stand still during battle. This sermon challenges us to move beyond "safe prayers" and begin praying bold, God-sized prayers that honor Him and demonstrate our faith.

Key Scripture

Joshua 10:12-14 - "Then Joshua spoke to the Lord in the day when the Lord delivered up the Amorites before the sons of Israel, and he said in the sight of Israel, 'O sun, stand still at Gibeon, and O moon in the valley of Ahalon.' So the sun stood still and the moon stopped until the nation avenged themselves of their enemies... There was no day like that before it or after it when the Lord listened to the voice of a man. For the Lord fought for Israel."

Discussion Questions

Part 1: God-Sized Assignments

1. What is the difference between a "maintenance prayer" and a "miracle prayer"? Which type do you find yourself praying most often?

2. Read Joshua 10:8. God promised victory before the battle began. Why do you think Joshua still had to march all night and fight all day? What does this teach us about faith and obedience?
3. Pastor Mack said, "God often does the impossible when we are willing to obey the possible." Can you share an example from your life or the Bible where obedience preceded a miracle?
4. What God-sized assignment might God be calling you to that requires more than your own abilities?

Part 2: Audacious Faith

5. Joshua's prayer sounds crazy by human standards. What keeps us from praying "crazy" prayers? What are we afraid of?
6. The sermon stated: "Faith is not confidence in circumstances. Faith is confidence in God." How does this distinction change the way we approach difficult situations?
7. Read James 4:2 - "You do not have because you do not ask." What miracles might remain unseen in your life because they remain unasked?

Part 3: Public Confidence

8. Joshua prayed his bold prayer publicly, "in the sight of Israel" (Joshua 10:12). Why is it significant that he didn't pray this privately? How does public faith encourage others?
9. When have you witnessed someone else's bold faith strengthen your own? How can we create a culture in our small group where we pray audacious prayers together?

Part 4: Supernatural Intervention

10. Pastor Mack distinguished between natural solutions (like taking aspirin for a headache) and supernatural intervention. How do we know when we need to pray for supernatural intervention versus using the natural means God has provided?

11. The sermon mentioned several people who are angry or bitter toward God because of difficult circumstances. How do we help someone understand that God is not the source of their pain, but rather the enemy is "out to steal, kill, and destroy"?

Part 5: God's Glory

12. Read Isaiah 42:8 - "I am the Lord. That is my name, and I will not give my glory to another." Why is it important that miracles point to God and not to us?
13. What is one area of your life where you've stopped believing God can work? (Marriage, prodigal child, finances, health, etc.) What would it look like to start believing again?

Key Takeaways

1. Audacious prayers begin with a God-sized assignment - God gives us tasks bigger than ourselves that require His intervention.
2. Audacious prayers require audacious faith - Faith believes God can do more than what we can currently see.
3. Audacious prayers are prayed in public confidence - Bold faith has a way of creating greater faith in people around us.
4. Audacious prayers invite supernatural intervention - Sometimes God must step in and do what only He can do.
5. Audacious prayers reveal the glory of God - The greatest purpose of every miracle is to bring glory to God, not ourselves.

Practical Applications

This Week's Challenge:

Choose ONE of the following to practice this week:

Option 1: Write Your "Sun Stand Still" Prayer

- Identify one situation in your life that needs supernatural intervention
- Write out a specific, bold prayer asking God to do the impossible
- Share it with at least one trusted person who can pray in agreement with you

- Pray this prayer daily for the next week

Option 2: Obedience Before Breakthrough

- Ask God to show you one area where He's calling you to obedience
- Take one concrete step of obedience this week (even if it feels "crazy")
- Journal about what happens when you obey before seeing the miracle

Option 3: Pray Publicly

- This week, pray a bold prayer out loud in front of someone (family member, friend, coworker)
- Don't whisper safe prayers—pray something that only God can answer
- Notice how your public faith affects those around you

Option 4: Move from Bitterness to Trust

- If you've been angry or bitter toward God about a situation, spend time in honest prayer
- Ask the Holy Spirit to help you redirect that anger toward the enemy, not God
- Write down the ways God has been faithful in the past, even in difficult times

Prayer Focus

Pray as a group for:

1. Marriages under attack - Pastor Mack specifically mentioned an onslaught against marriages. Pray for supernatural restoration and healing.
2. Prodigal children - Pray for family members who have walked away from God. Believe for their return.
3. Financial breakthroughs - Pray for those struggling financially to see God's supernatural provision.
4. Physical healing - Pray for those needing divine healing in their bodies.

5. Revival in our community - Pray for God to do something in Baldwin County that only He can get credit for.
6. Church land/building - Join Pastor Mack in praying for an "undeniable miracle" regarding the church's next step in land/facilities.

Memory Verse

Ephesians 3:20 - "Now to him who is able to do immeasurably more than we could all ask or imagine according to his power that is at work within us."

Closing Reflection

Personal Reflection Questions (5 minutes of silence):

- What is the biggest thing I'm believing God for right now?
- Am I truly seeking God's face, or just His hand?
- What would change in my life if I really believed God could do the impossible?

Close in Prayer: Have each person share ONE bold prayer request. Then pray together in agreement, declaring that God is able to do what only He can do.

For Next Week

- Read Joshua 1:1-9 (Be Strong and Courageous)
- Journal about one area where you need courage to step into what God is calling you to do
- Come prepared to share any answers to this week's bold prayers

Leader Notes

- Create a safe space for people to be honest about their struggles, doubts, and fears
- Encourage vulnerability - Some may be angry with God or struggling with unbelief

- Don't rush through the questions - let the Holy Spirit lead the conversation
- Follow up during the week with group members about their "Sun Stand Still" prayers
- Celebrate testimonies - If someone sees an answer to prayer, make time to share it with the group

"I sought the Lord and He heard and He answered. That's why I trust Him."