

Ancient Greek history came to the conclusion - running the 4 minute mile was physically impossible for a human being to do. Our bone structure was all wrong, the wind resistance was too great, our lung power was inadequate. There were a million reasons. Then one day one human being proved that the doctors, the trainers, and the athletes themselves were all wrong. And, miracle of miracles, that year Roger Bannister broke the four-minute mile. And the year after that three hundred runners broke the four-minute mile!

For every man of God here this morning there will be impossible obstacles that will stand between you and the future God has for you - the hope is that through Gods power and ability He will bring us through impossible obstacles: Barriers can become Memorials.

**Joshua 3:7-11, 17** And the Lord said to Joshua, "This day I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you. **8** You shall command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, saying, 'When you have come to the edge of the water of the Jordan, you shall stand in the Jordan.' " **9** So Joshua said to the children of Israel, "Come here, and hear the words of the Lord your God." **10** And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Gergashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: **11** Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan. **17** Then the priests who bore the ark of the covenant of the Lord stood firm on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan; and all Israel crossed over on dry ground, until all the people had crossed completely over the Jordan.

## **I. GODS PROMISE FOR OUR LIVES**

- A. Gods promise is always future focused
  1. Salvation is both a process and a miracle
    - a) Understand me clearly on this- the moment you make the decision to give your life to Jesus ALL your sins are forgiven immediately- But The life you live after salvation is a process

**2 Corinthians 3:18** But we all, with unveiled face, beholding as in a mirror the glory of the Lord, are being transformed into the same image from glory to glory, just as by the Spirit of the Lord.

2. The future God Has for our lives is for our benefit
  - a) Connected with Gods purposes for our lives is blessing and help-**COI were coming from in this text- 400 year of slavery and now they were free / entering into a land of promise and blessing**

**Joshua 3:7** The LORD said to Joshua, "Today I will begin to exalt you in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with you.

**Joshua 3:8** And as for you, command the priests who bear the ark of the covenant, 'When you come to the brink of the waters of the Jordan, you shall stand still in the Jordan.' "

- B. Reality of barriers
  1. In your life- you will face obstacles, barriers and opposition that will block you from your destiny
    - a) There was a barrier standing between the COI and the Promise land
    - b) People / habits/ our past/ doubt/ fear etc etc
  2. The will of God for your life is not automatic
    - a) The COI were wandering in the wildness for 40 years before they came this place-
    - b) *Dangerous mentality for Christians is the think that a life of faith should be easy without problems- this is not true*
  3. Your decision to do the will of God will be opposed
    - a) *The point of the barrier was not to give up and return back to Egypt- Often times when Christians face opposition- this can be the conclusion- "whats the point in living for God if I have to face these obstacles*

### C. Incorrect Conclusion about barriers

1. **Incorrect conclusion about our calling** (God must not want me to enter the promise land)
  - a) Setbacks, problems, barriers- we can interpret these things as a "Sign" That God must not want me step out in faith

**Numbers 13:31** Then the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we are."

**Numbers 14:4** And they said to one another, "Let us choose a leader and go back to Egypt."

2. **Incorrect conclusions about ourselves**
  - a) I must not be saved/ must not be doing right because of the barrier
  - b) Truth is you can be doing all the right things and yet still face opposition and struggle

### 3. **Incorrect Conclusions about God**

4. We stop moving forward

5. Many people when faced with opposition or barriers that block us from doing the with will of God they never cross over into their promise land / barriers can cause men to stop pursuing their destiny

## **II. THE BENEFIT OF BARRIERS**

- A. Powerful reality of what barriers do

1. We are forced to **stop** and **focus**

2. The passing of time can be threatening - but also beneficial/ **Disciples especially** have an incredibly hard time processing life correctly in the waiting

- b) We live in an instant gratification generation and often times we can confuse Our will with Gods will
- c) *Unintended consequences of the choices we make - Ps. Greg has said - every choice you make is a God choice - effects calling and destiny*

2. We must depend on God for a breakthrough
  - a) Much of what we face as men of god cannot simply be solved by will-power alone- Cuts against the "try harder/ be better" mentality that many people have
3. Helpful for Gods people to **identify the immovable**
  - a) Wishful/positive thinking is not enough- imagine if the people came to the River and said "what river"
  - b) When we see the immovable obstacles of life- the point is we direct our focus on who God is and what He is able to do

**2 Corinthians 1:20** *For all the promises of God find their Yes in him. That is why it is through him that we utter our Amen to God for his glory.*

#### B. Crossing over Barriers

1. We as men must respond to **Barriers** through the lens of **Gods word**

**Joshua 3:9** *And Joshua said to the people of Israel, "Come here and listen to the words of the LORD your God."*

- a) Having a relationship with Gods word is essential to be able work through barriers of ministry
- 2. Recognize barriers as being **unacceptable**
  - a) Crossing over Barries means you must see the barriers and stop accommodating them in your life
  - b) Often time I've seen people turn their experiences in life into their expectations
- 3. Barriers are crossed over in connection with **other people**

**Joshua 3:10** *And Joshua said, "By this you shall know that the living God is among you, and that He will without fail drive out from before you the Canaanites and the Hittites and the Hivites and the Perizzites and the Gergashites and the Amorites and the Jebusites: 11 Behold, the ark of the covenant of the Lord of all the earth is crossing over before you into the Jordan.*

- a) Your growth and success as a disciple will largely depend on your relationship with your Pastor
- b) *Men that never ask pastor a single question/ are corrected or given direction by their pastor and never apply it/ if you are not in relationship with your pastor here in Prescott chances are you will not be in relationship with him if you get sent out.*
- c) Barriers and issues you face on the field - It is in relationship with your pastor and his direction that will help to save you time and avoid major pitfalls and problems in ministry
- 4. We need the Presence of God active in our lives
  - a) Without Gods active power moving in our lives then we will not be able to cross over on our own
  - b) *Spiritually speaking now: All that God has for your life- it is supernatural in nature: Meaning it is Gods active involvement in our lives that makes His promises for us possible*

**Joshua 3:17** *Now the priests bearing the ark of the covenant of the LORD stood firmly on dry ground in the midst of the Jordan, and all Israel was passing over on dry ground until all the nation finished passing over the Jordan.*

### III. BARRIERS BECOME MEMORIALS

#### A. God can change how you view barriers

1. God can change how you view **the past**
  - a) This is a powerful image we have of what salvation is- the barrier that blocked them from their future became the the barrier that protected them from their past
  - b) Issues of our past that haunt us- keep us up at night> but what our scripture tells us about the nature of God is that what once brought pain and worry can be changed- put behind us no longer an obstacle but a memorial- God can cause your **past to become a memorial**

**Jeremiah 32:27** *"Behold, I am the LORD, the God of all flesh. Is anything too hard for me?"*

2. God can change how you view **present circumstance**
  - a) No doubt you will face things in your life today that are blocking you from your destiny in Christ
  - b) When God is able to remove the obstacles of our past lives of sin- then He is also able to remove barriers of today
3. God can change how you view **your future**
  - a) The Jordan river would not be the only obstacle the COI would face in life- Up next what the Walls of Jericho- another immovable and impossible situation that Only God would be able to change

#### B. When Barriers Become memorials

1. Powerful picture: God wants the people to remember this place not for how difficult it seemed in the moment but to remember what God did regardless the size and difficulty
  - a) When the COI came up and out of the River- God commanded them to pile stones on the side of the promise land taken from the river when the people passed through it-
    - (1) This would have been a powerful testimony for the future of Gods people- Showing us that He is able to overcome
    - (2) This would have given future generations confidence to believe God for the impossible