



## **“Taking Off the Limits”**

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Noon Chapel Service Message Notes

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**PSALMS 78:40-42 (NKJV)**

**78:40**

**How often they provoked Him in the wilderness, And grieved Him in the desert!**

**78:41**

**Yes, again and again they tempted God, And limited the Holy One of Israel.**

**78:42**

**They did not remember His power: The day when He redeemed them from the enemy,**

This is a recounting of the chosen people of God. They provoked and grieved God in the wilderness. They tempted and limited the Holy One of Israel.

We like to talk about a limitless God. A God who has all power. But the reality is, the people of God often limit what God wants to do for them. God wants to do so much more than we allow Him to do.

We limit Him in our personal lives by saying what we can't do.

We limit Him in our churches, thinking that we can't do.

We limit Him in theological education, because we think we don't have any money.

Do you know who we belong to? We are children of the King! The One who owns everything.

This is not prosperity gospel. It is what thus saith the Lord.

God will release all kinds of stuff to us, if we stop holding Him back.

What some call a miracle is really just doing what we are supposed to do, and allowing God to fulfill what He's already decided to do.

God is not limited to our shortsightedness: I'm black. I'm poor. I was born on the wrong side of the track.

God has put us where He wants us to be. We were born to the parents we were supposed to be born to. He knew exactly what He was doing and still is doing.

Many of us talk about what we don't have or how little we have, but God is not asking us what we have, He's just asking us to make ourselves available to Him. He can use whatever we have, and create what we don't have.

The man of God in 2 Kings chapter 4, told the debt-ridden widow with two sons to go borrow more than a few empty vessels from all of her neighbors, bring them back, shut the door, and fill them with oil from the one jar of oil that she owned.

She obeyed, filled every jar with oil from the one jar, and was able to sell the oil, pay her debts and save her sons from slavery.

What should be noted from this story is that as long as the empty vessels were available, there was enough oil to fill them. As soon as there were no more empty vessels, the oil stopped flowing. We limit God by not offering Him enough empty vessels, in the form of our lives.

There are two important parts to this miracle:

- 1) She listened to the man of God. So many times we don't listen to God, or the person of God that He sends. God always speaks knowing the end from the beginning.
- 2) She obeyed the man of God. If we would just follow God's orders. The widow's obedience not only caused her immediate needs to be met, but her future needs were met also. *Then she came and told the man of God. And he said, "Go, sell the oil and pay your debt; and you and your sons live on the rest."* (2 Kings 4:7-NKJV) There was enough oil left over after paying off the debts to "live on the rest". God doesn't just want us to be able to meet the bills. He's too big to just want us to be out of debt. He wants us to have an abundance. He wants us to have more than enough, so that we can invest in somebody else.

God wants us to remove the limits that hinder us from being all that He has called us to be.

In Matthew chapter 14, Jesus said to Peter as he began to sink as he was walking on water, "*You of little faith, .... "why did you doubt?"*". Many talk about Peter not having faith, but how many of us have at least done what Peter did? Peter walked on water! How many of us have walked on water?

In the Greek, the word used here does not mean "little faith", it means "short burst of faith". A lot of us are like Peter. We have a lot of faith until adversity comes, then the strong faith that we had becomes a short burst of faith.

Also the Greek word used here for “doubt” does not mean uncertainty. It literally means “doubled”. Peter had a short burst of faith and then he doubled up.

- When we double up, we take our eyes off of the Lord.
- When we double up we begin to doubt.
- When we double up, we think we can't do it.

But when we know that we have a God that is not limited, we don't need to double up, we need to straighten up! And look to the hills from which cometh our help!

*Message summarized by **Sherrolyn G. Duffy**, Simmons College of Kentucky  
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