

Beyond The Wall

Part 04

Intro

1. God blesses us when we reach beyond the wall.
2. Reaching beyond the wall means that people outside the walls get to enjoy what we've found.
3. We're not on our own in doing this, we've got the power of the gospel to back us up.
4. Sometimes going beyond the wall means facing obstacles and opposition.
5. This week we'll talk about how God wants us to push through the opposition and get the gospel out at all costs.

Read: Gen 49:22-24, Acts 4:1-22

“Joseph is a fruitful bough, a fruitful bough by a spring; his branches run over the wall. The archers bitterly attacked him, shot at him, and harassed him severely, yet his bow remained unmoved; his arms were made agile by the hands of the Mighty One of Jacob.” - Gen 49:22-24

Joseph faced opposition when he reached beyond the wall. Acts 4:1-22 describes how Peter and John faced opposition once they began declaring the gospel as well.

I. Reaching Beyond The Wall Invites Opposition

And as they were speaking to the people, the priests and the captain of the temple and the Sadducees came upon them, greatly annoyed because they were teaching the people and proclaiming in Jesus the resurrection from the dead.

- Acts 4:1-2

A. Taking new territory is often met with resistance.

- i. Going beyond the wall is stepping into new territory.
- ii. Enemies don't like their ground being taken.
- iii. Peter and John were met with opposition.
- iv. Jesus tells us we'll be met with opposition.

B. Opposition can come from many sources or reasons.

- i. Bitterly attacked him
 - a) *Bitter about something or someone from the past ie. bad church experience*
 - b) *Lashing out from a place of hurt or anger.*
 - c) *Need healing and restoration.*
- ii. Shot at him
 - a) *Taking shots from a distance.*
 - b) *People who haven't personally seen the power of the Gospel but want to discredit it anyway.*
 - c) *Need to experience God for themselves.*
- iii. Harassed him severely
 - a) *Going out of the way to come after you.*
 - b) *Not just light opposition, but strong and severe.*
 - c) *Need to be met with love.*

C. Opposition shouldn't surprise us, we need to be ready for it.

Yet his bow remained unmoved. - Gen 49:24

II. Giving In To Opposition Is Denying Ourselves Of An Opportunity For Breakthrough

But many of those who had heard the word believed, and the number of the men came to about five thousand. - Acts 4:4

Now when they saw the boldness of Peter and John, and perceived that they were uneducated, common men, they were astonished. And they recognized that they had been with Jesus. But seeing the man who was healed standing beside them, they had nothing to say in opposition.

- Acts 4:13-14

A. There's no victory without something to defeat.

No breakthrough without barriers. Sound/speed, race records.

B. Opposition puts us in a zone of discomfort.

C. Opposition drives us to dependence on God.

Peter and John were untrained, but they had been with Jesus.

D. If we don't learn to face opposition, we don't learn to set ourselves up for breakthrough.

III. The Size Of The Mission Matters More Than The Size Of The Opposition

*But Peter and John answered them, “Whether it is right in the sight of God to listen to you rather than to God, you must judge, for **we cannot but speak of what we have seen and heard.**” And when they had further threatened them, they let them go, finding no way to punish them, because of the people, for all were praising God for what had happened.*

- Acts 4:19-21

A. Reaching beyond the wall is a mission we are commanded to fulfil.

- i. *Matt 28:19-20*
- ii. Great **commission**
- iii. **GO** into all the world, sense of the Greek word is an imperative, command.

B. The presence of opposition doesn't change the importance of the mission.

Too much at stake to let opposition decide whether the gospel goes out or not.

C. The focus is on God, not the opposition.

What God can do through the Holy Spirit in you.

- i. Have we made our opposition too big and our God too small?
- ii. When we choose not to step out, we say our fear is more important than the **mission**.

D. Reaching beyond the wall is a sacrifice that impacts eternity.

- i. Many people have given their lives so we can have the gospel today. *Apostles, missionaries, people who printed the Bible and were killed by the Catholic church.*

- ii. What's the sacrifice of some fear, pride, relationship, image, so that someone can have an opportunity to be impacted for eternity?

Conclusion

We will face opposition when we declare the Gospel, but when we keep reaching beyond the wall, we invite the power of God to come and bring breakthrough.

Salvation Call

Ministry Time

Respond to make a commitment to take the gospel to our generation no matter what we'll face.

- Receive boldness and strength
- Receive power and authority