

75_You Don't Need to Go Anywhere for God to Work

By System Import | Sermon | March 13, 2026

You Don't Need to Go Anywhere for God to Work: The Power of "Here"

There is a subtle form of idolatry that plagues the modern believer. It is not the worship of statues or money. It is the worship of "Elsewhere."

We live with a chronic, low-grade dissatisfaction with our current location, our current season, and our current assignment. We convince ourselves that God is limited by our geography or our circumstances. We tell ourselves:

- * "If I just moved to a different city, my ministry would take off."
- * "If I just had a different job, I would have peace."
- * "If I just found a new church, I would grow spiritually."
- * "If I were married (or single again), I would be happy."

We live with our bags mentally packed. We treat our current life as a "Waiting Room"—a boring, useless pause before the "Real Life" begins. We are suffering from Destination Addiction: the belief that success, happiness, and God's presence are always in the next place, the next year, or the next relationship.

But this mindset paralyzes you. It blinds you to the resources that are right under your feet. It insults the Sovereignty of God, because it implies that God made a mistake by placing you where you are.

The Bible tells a very different story. Scripture is filled with people who found God's greatest power in the most unlikely, uncomfortable, and restrictive places.

- * Joseph prospered in a prison.
- * Daniel influenced kings in captivity.
- * Jesus saved the world from a tiny, dusty town called Nazareth.

God does not need you to change your zip code to change your life. He does not need a change of scenery to perform a miracle. He is the God of "Here."

Today, we are going to dismantle the lie of "Elsewhere." We are going to look at the 7 Spiritual Principles of the Present. We are going to learn how to bloom where we are planted, how to dig wells in the valley, and how to unlock the hidden potential of your current season.

Number 1: The Jacob Principle — Waking Up to the "Now"

In Genesis 28, Jacob is on the run. He has cheated his brother, deceived his father, and is fleeing for his life. He ends up sleeping on the hard ground in the middle of nowhere, with a stone for a

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pillow.

To Jacob, this was a "God-forsaken" place. It was a place of failure, fear, and isolation. He probably thought, "God is back home with my father Isaac. God isn't out here in this wasteland."

But that night, he had a dream. He saw a ladder resting on the earth, with its top reaching to heaven, and the angels of God were ascending and descending on it.

When Jacob woke up, he made a statement that shakes the foundation of our escapism:

"Surely the LORD is in this place, and I was not aware of it."* (Genesis 28:16).

Notice what happened. God didn't move; Jacob's awareness moved.

The place hadn't changed. It was still a rocky wasteland. But suddenly, Jacob realized that the wasteland was the "Gate of Heaven."

Many of you are in a "wasteland" right now. Maybe it's a dead-end job. Maybe it's a difficult marriage. Maybe it's a small, struggling church. And you are thinking, "God isn't here."

But the Jacob Principle tells us: You are not suffering from an absence of God; you are suffering from a lack of awareness.

If you could see the spiritual realm, you would see angels ascending and descending over your cubicle. You would see a ladder standing in your kitchen.

You don't need to go to a "Holy Mountain" to find God. You need to open your eyes to the rock you are sleeping on.

God is just as present in your difficulty as He is in your victory. Stop looking for Him "over there" and start asking Him to reveal Himself "right here." The ground you are standing on is holy ground, simply because you—the Temple of the Holy Spirit—are standing on it.

Number 2: The Jeremiah Strategy — Planting Gardens in Babylon

One of the most profound letters in the Bible was written by the prophet Jeremiah to the exiles in Babylon (Jeremiah 29).

The Jews were in captivity. They were in a pagan city, surrounded by enemies. They hated it.

False prophets were telling them, "Don't unpack! God is going to break the yoke of Babylon in two years. We are going home soon! Keep your bags packed!"

The people were living in "Suspended Animation." They refused to engage with their current reality because they were so focused on escaping it.

But then Jeremiah writes to them with a shocking command from God:

"Build houses and settle down; plant gardens and eat what they produce. Marry and have sons

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and daughters... Seek the peace and prosperity of the city to which I have carried you into exile."* (Jeremiah 29:5-7).

God was saying: "Put down roots in the place you hate."

Why? Because God had a purpose for them *in* Babylon, not just *after* Babylon.

If they had kept their bags packed, they never would have influenced the culture. Daniel never would have risen to power. Esther never would have become Queen.

God was teaching them the discipline of Occupying.

You might feel like you are in "exile" right now. You feel like you don't belong in your current workplace or neighborhood. You are just biding your time until you can leave.

But God says: "Build the house. Plant the garden."

* Start the project at work as if you will be there for ten years.

* Love your neighbors as if you will never move.

* Serve that small church as if it's the only church in the world.

When you commit to the place God has put you, you unlock a specific anointing. God cannot bless a person who is mentally absent. He blesses faithfulness. If you want God to move you *forward*, you must first be faithful *here*. Stop waiting for the "Rescue Boat" and start learning how to swim.

Number 3: The Joseph Paradox — The Palace is Within You

The story of Joseph is the ultimate proof that geography does not dictate destiny.

Joseph was thrown into a pit, sold into slavery, and then thrown into an Egyptian dungeon for a crime he didn't commit.

By all earthly standards, his location was a disaster. He was in the lowest place on earth.

But four times in Genesis 39, the Bible repeats a specific phrase: "But the Lord was with Joseph."

Here is the paradox: Joseph was a prisoner, but he was prosperous.

The Bible says, *"The Lord was with Joseph and he prospered."* Wait. How can you prosper in prison? He didn't have money. He didn't have freedom. He wore chains.

He prospered because Prosperity is not a place; it is a Presence.

Because the Lord was with him, Joseph carried an atmosphere of excellence. Even in the prison, he rose to the top. The warden put him in charge of all the other prisoners.

Many of us think, "I need to get to the Palace (the promotion, the wealth) so that God can use me."

But God says, "I want to use you in the Prison."

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If Joseph had sat in the corner of his cell, sulking and plotting his escape, he never would have met the Cupbearer. If he hadn't met the Cupbearer, he never would have met Pharaoh. The path to the Palace led *through* his faithfulness in the Prison.

You don't need to change your circumstances to change your impact. You can be the "Joseph" of your toxic office. You can be the "Joseph" of your chaotic family.

If you carry the Spirit of God, you turn every environment into a Kingdom outpost. You don't need to go to the Palace to find authority; the authority is in *you*.

Number 4: The Nazareth Factor — The Power of Obscurity

In John 1:46, when Nathanael first heard about Jesus, he asked a cynical question: *"Nazareth! Can anything good come from there?"*

Nazareth was a nothing town. It was obscure, poor, and had a bad reputation. It was the last place you would look for a King.

And yet, the Savior of the Universe spent 30 years there. He worked in a woodshop. He swept sawdust. He fixed chairs.

We hate obscurity. We are obsessed with "platforms." We think that for God to work, we need to be in a big city, on a big stage, with a big audience. We despise the "Nazareths" of our lives—the seasons where no one sees us, where the work is boring, and where we feel overqualified.

But God loves Nazareth.

Nazareth is the Incubator.

God hides His best arrows in the quiver until the right time (Isaiah 49:2).

If you are in a season of obscurity, do not despise it.

* It is in the quiet of Nazareth that Jesus grew in wisdom and stature.

* It is in the silence of the pasture that David learned to kill the lion and the bear.

* It is in the backside of the desert that Moses learned to hear the burning bush.

You don't need to go to Jerusalem (the spotlight) for God to work. In fact, if you go to the spotlight before you have mastered the woodshop of Nazareth, the spotlight will burn you.

God is working in your anonymity. He is forging your character. He is testing your motives.

Can you serve Him when no one is clapping? Can you be faithful when the work is mundane?

If you can find God in the woodshop, you will be ready for the miracles. But if you despise the woodshop, you will never reach the cross.

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Number 5: The Stewardship of the "Now" — The Parable of the Talents

In Matthew 25, the Master gives talents (money) to his servants. To one he gives five, to another two, and to another one. Then he leaves.

The servant with one talent buried it. Why?

Perhaps he was paralyzed by comparison. He looked at the guy with five talents and thought, "I only have one. It's not enough to do anything big. I'll just wait until the Master comes back."

He despised his **current** resource because it wasn't a **bigger** resource.

When the Master returned, He called that servant "wicked and lazy."

The lesson is terrifyingly simple: God does not audit you on what you **don't** have; He audits you on what you **do** have.

We often say, "Lord, if you give me a bigger house, I'll start a small group." "If you give me a raise, I'll start tithing." "If you give me a spouse, I'll start serving."

God says, "No. Use what is in your hand."

You don't need to go find more resources for God to work.

** Moses had a stick. God used it to part the Red Sea.*

** David had a sling. God used it to kill a giant.*

** The widow had a jar of oil. God used it to pay her debts.*

** The boy had a lunchbox. God used it to feed 5,000.*

What is in your hand right now? It might look small. It might look insufficient. But if you offer it to God **right where you are**, He can multiply it.

Stop looking at the "Five Talents" that someone else has in another city. Look at the "One Talent" you have right here.

Stewardship is the key to promotion. If you are faithful with the little, here and now, God will make you ruler over much. But you have to plant the seed you have, not the seed you wish you had.

Number 6: The Kingdom is Within — The End of External Validation

In Luke 17:20-21, the Pharisees asked Jesus when the Kingdom of God would come. They were looking for an external takeover—a political revolution, a change of government, a new visible structure.

Jesus replied: **"The coming of the kingdom of God is not something that can be observed..."*

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because the kingdom of God is within you."*

This is the ultimate game-changer.

We are constantly looking for the Kingdom *outside*. We want a better church, a better government, a better environment. We think, "If I can just get into the right atmosphere, I'll thrive." But Jesus says the Kingdom is an internal reality.

You are the carrier of the Kingdom.

This means you don't go *to* church to find God; you bring God *to* the building.

You don't go *to* a revival; you carry the revival in your chest.

You don't need to go to a prayer mountain to access power; the Holy Spirit lives inside your ribcage.

This removes all excuses.

* "My boss is mean." The Kingdom of Peace is within you. Release it.

* "My city is dark." The Light of the World is within you. Shine it.

* "My family is chaotic." The Prince of Peace is within you. Establish order.

When you realize the Kingdom is internal, you stop running from place to place seeking a spiritual "fix." You realize that you are a mobile Temple. Wherever you place your foot, the Kingdom has arrived. You are the thermostat, not the thermometer. A thermometer just reflects the temperature of the room; a thermostat *changes* it. Stop letting your location dictate your spiritual temperature. Set the temperature yourself.

Number 7: The Appointment of the "Meantime" — Kairos vs. Chronos

Finally, we must understand the nature of Time.

The Greeks had two words for time: *Chronos* (calendar time, the ticking clock) and *Kairos* (God's appointed time, the opportune moment).

We are obsessed with Chronos. We look at the calendar and say, "I'm 30 years old, I should be further along." "I've been in this job for 5 years, I'm wasting time."

But God operates in Kairos.

God has placed you here, in this specific "Meantime," for a Kairos purpose.

There is a lesson here that you cannot learn anywhere else.

There is a person here that you are meant to touch.

There is a death to self that can only happen in this desert.

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If God moved you today, you would be unprepared for the destination.

David spent years running from Saul, hiding in caves. It felt like wasted time. He was the anointed King, but he was living like a refugee.

But those years in the cave were not wasted; they were the curriculum for his Kingship.

* In the cave, he learned mercy (when he spared Saul).

* In the cave, he learned leadership (leading the mighty men).

* In the cave, he learned worship (writing the Psalms).

When he finally took the throne, he was ready.

Your current location is your classroom. You are not "stuck"; you are enrolled in God's University.

Do not try to drop out of the class before you have passed the test.

Ask God: "What are You trying to teach me *here*? What muscle are You trying to build in me *now*?"

When you embrace the lesson of the "Meantime," the time passes differently. You stop enduring it and start utilizing it. And usually, the moment you learn the lesson is the moment God opens the door to the next season.

Conclusion: Unpack Your Bags

So, here is the challenge for today: Unpack your bags.

I don't mean you can never move. I don't mean you should stay in an abusive situation. I don't mean you shouldn't have goals.

I mean you must stop living with one foot out the door.

Stop browsing Zillow as a form of escapism. Stop looking at LinkedIn hoping for a rescue. Stop fantasizing about a different life.

Commit to *this* life. The one God gave you. The one you have right now.

Dig a well in your valley.

Love the unlovable people around you.

Serve in the imperfect church you attend.

Do your boring job with a spirit of excellence.

God is not waiting for you to get to the "Next Place" to start His work. He is ready to work right now.

He is the God of the present tense. His name is "I AM," not "I Will Be."

If you can trust Him here, in the messy, imperfect, frustrating "Here," you will see His glory.

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The grass isn't greener on the other side; the grass is greener where you water it. So turn on the hose.

"Surely the LORD is in this place." (Genesis 28:16)

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