

Go A Little Further

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James Brown: Your mistakes and your problems do not disqualify you. They simply prepare you for where God is taking you to.

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(Music Playing: 00:00:22 - 00:00:50)

And now for 6521, "Go A Little Further."

James Brown Amen. Praise God. Come on, somebody give God a hand, clap of praise. Halleluiah. Glory to God. Is God good to anybody in this house? Do we serve an awesome loving and powerful God? Halleluiah. Glory to God. Glory to God.

I tell you, he has seen us through some challenges and brought us into some blessings, Amen. Is anybody blessed in the house tonight? Praise God. Praise God. Glory to God.

Well, thank you so much for receiving me. I want to go ahead and just get started with the word of God. If we would -- if you have your bible, you can take your sits. If you have your bible, I'd like you to turn with me in the Book of Matthew. Matthew Chapter 26 and I think Pastor James for that prayer and for reminding us of some things. So as he was doing that, it reminded me so much of so many things that God has been doing and saying, "He'd been speaking to me so much over the past several weeks." This was such a powerful time during this past several weeks as God was just speaking and talking to me. And I believe it is something divine that he has been doing in the land, in the land. So, I believe that we're going to hear something tonight that's going to help us take this divine story and see some practical application from it. Amen.

The Book of Matthew, Chapter 26 beginning at Verse 36. The word of God reads and says, "Then cometh Jesus with them unto a place called Gethsemane, and saith unto the he disciples, Sit ye here, while I go and pray yonder. And he took with him Peter and the two sons of Zebedee, and began to be sorrowful and very heavy. Then saith he unto them, My soul is exceeding sorrowful, even unto death: tarry ye here, and watch with me. And he went a little further, and fell on his face, and prayed, saying, O my

Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me: nevertheless not as I will, but as thou wilt. And he cometh unto the disciples, and findeth them asleep, and saith unto Peter, What, could ye not watch with me one hour? Watch and pray, that ye enter not into temptation: the spirit indeed is willing, but the flesh is weak.

He went away again the second time, and prayed, saying, O my Father, if this cup may not pass away from me, except I drink it, thy will be done. And he came and found them asleep again: for their eyes were heavy. And he left them, and went away again, and prayed the third time, saying the same words. Then cometh he to his disciples, and saith unto them, Sleep on now, and take your rest: behold, the hour is at hand, and the Son of man is betrayed into the hands of sinners. Rise, let us be going: behold, he is at hand that doth betray me.

Tonight, we're going to speak from the subject, "Go A Little Further. Go A Little Further." Here, we see Jesus and his eleven disciples. We know that Judas was in the process of betraying him so he was there, but the other disciples with him and they were present into the Garden of Gethsemane. The Garden of Gethsemane. Gethsemane the word means oil press. Some are very familiar with the wine press? Amen. We're familiar with the wine press, even Gideon and I believe. Gideon hit himself in the wine press in the Book of Judges if you remember that.

Something about the wine. The wine represents joy. Wine represents covenant but the oil press. Here it is, Gethsemane, located at the foot of the Mount of Olives.

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Something about when you press the oil out of the Olive. You see, wine represents joy but the oil represents the anointing. You see, you have to go through some pressure to get to the anointing. Amen. That's why if you ever get an anointing in your life, it's only because you've been pressed in some areas. You've been pushed and squeezed into some very uncomfortable places so something that was in you was brought out. That's where the anointing is applied.

Here it is, Jesus, going into the garden of Gethsemane. He tells his disciples, he says, "I want you to watch here so you all stay here. I'm going to go up yonder and pray." And so, he says,

“Listen, James, John and Peter, you three, you all come with me.” So, he went into the garden a little further. He said, “Listen, I want you to stay here. You all stay right here, I have to go do something.” Then the bible says this, “He went a little further.” The interesting thing is I want you to make note of this that here it was Jesus told his first disciples, he said, “Listen, you all stay here. I want you to do something things. You need to keep watch.” He took his three with him. The three, the inner three, Peter, James and John. That those three he took with him into this intimate place and he said, “Now, I need you guys to sit here and watch.” He shares something intimate with them. He said, “Listen, I’m feeling so sorrowful. It feels like I’m about to die. I can feel life leaving me. I don’t like this. I don’t understand this but I’m having to deal with this. I need you all to be here.

Now, it’s interesting that he chose them. He thought they could handle this honesty, this transparency and rightfully so they had been with him when he was on the mount of transfiguration. They went there when he was with Moses and Elijah seeing the effect. It was Peter himself that said, “It was good that we would be here”, and he say all these things. So if they could behold his glory, sure, they could help him through his agony, but so they sat there. He said, “You all sit here.” But then the bible says in the next verse, it says, “That he went a little further. He went a little further.” It is something important that you have to remember because you can’t take everybody into the place where God calls you. You can’t take them into the secret place. You can’t take them into that private place. You know, back in the day, we use to call it, “The Prayer Closet.” You don’t take nobody in your prayer closet. You were the only one that went in your prayer closet. You close the door and everybody else simply sat. They said, “What’s that noise going on in it? What’s all that going on?” Now, you guys need to talk to your father and they didn’t need to be in there. It was a private conversation.

But here it is Jesus. He said, “Listen, you all stay here.” He went a little further. The interesting thing was, watch what he did. The bible says, “He fell on his face. He fell on his face and prayed out to God. He fell on his face. Somebody say, “Fell on his face.” The reason why that’s important because I want you to realize he wasn’t concerned about his posture. He wasn’t concerned about how he would go or what people will say or what people would think about how he was praying. No, in fact, he fell on his face. In fact, when the other disciples heard him, some of them thought

it was inaudible when he was praying and they wonder what in the world is he saying. I can't make out a word. What's going on? So there was he fell on his face and also where he fell is often called a rock. It was a rock, a hard place that he fell upon. It's also known as the rock of agony. The rock of agony where he fell. In fact today, it is believed that a part of the foundation of a church known as the Church of Nations it was built upon that rock.

You see, the foundation of our faith often times is birth through some agony. It's birth through some pain. It's birth through some turmoil, some brokenness. All of these things go into making the foundation of you really are in Christ. Jesus fell upon the rock suffering, crying out to his father as he cried up the more, he cried up the more, he prayed. Listen to what he said, "He falls on his face and he prayed," and he says, "Oh my Father, if it be possible, let this cup pass from me. Nevertheless, not as I will but as thy will. Not as I will, but as thy will.

Something interesting is happening here. You see, Jesus was caught in this conundrum because Jesus was fully God, but he was also fully man. He possessed a soul dwelling in a body inhabiting a spirit. And here it is with the first thing we hear from him when he says, "Father, could you let this cup pass from me?"

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That was his soul crying out. That was his soul that felt the anguish. That was his soul that felt like it was dying. That was his soul that felt like he could not go on. He's preaching out to his brothers. He's preaching out to his friends. His service, he said, "Listen. Can you simply pray with me? Can you tarry with me for just a little while because I don't know how this thing is going to work out and I need something from you?"

Oftentimes, we think we need something from people, we think we need them to help us, and we do. We think we need them to uplift us, and we do. But there's something that only God can do that men cannot do. Jesus, praying out, "Can you let this cup pass from me?" But then something happens. He says a word that is pivotal in this passage and even in our doctrine because it changed the course of our history. He says, "Nevertheless, not my will, but thy will," or "As thy wilt."

Listen. So, here it is, his soul had been crying out. He said, "Look, can you let this cup pass from me? Can you let it go?" But then his spirit spoke up. In the midst of his pain, in the midst of the anguish, the spirit spoke up. It said, "Nonetheless, it's not what I want, it's what you want. It's not what I will, it's what you will. You are the one." He was reaching the point of the very destiny, the very purpose that's why he was birthed in the earth and it was tearing him apart. But yes, his spirit spoke up in the midst of that anguish.

Listen, you always want to get to a place where you can pray through your soul until you get to your spirit, do you hear me? You've got to pray through your soul until you get to your spirit because your spirit is always going to be in line with God. Your spirit is going to be crying out to the father. Listen, the deep crieth onto deep; so therefore, the spirit is trying to reach to what God wants you to do, not merely what your soul wants your mind willing your emotions.

Listen, your emotions can be fickle. Don't let your emotions guide you. Don't let your emotions govern you. Here it is, Jesus said, "Listen, I'm not giving in to my emotions, I'm giving in to the father." There the father spoke to him. The interesting thing was he got up. After he got up, he went, and then he saw his disciples.

He said, "Listen." He speaks to Peter. You know, the one who's always boasting about he's the representative, boasting about he's the head honcho, boasting about, "No, Jesus, this will never happen to you." That one, he went to that one. "Peter." Notice, he didn't say anything going to change him. "Peter, you couldn't tarry but an hour? Really?" He didn't say just, "Peter, you could --." He said, "What? Peter? You couldn't -- what? Peter, you couldn't tarry but an hour?"

So, here it is, he said, "Listen, I need you to do something. I need you to get up, but I need you to watch and pray." The spirit is willing but the flesh is weak. I wonder why he was able to tell them that.

See, many people, many theologians, he's sitting their chest icing them. But I want you to understand, he was giving them a secret. He unlocked something in the spirit and he was letting them know how do we know this, because over in the book of Luke

around chapter 22, in verse 43 or somewhere around in there, he says and we hear this, after Jesus prayed that same prayer that he pray, the Bible says, “Did an angel come and strengthened him?”

Listen, this is what I’m trying to tell you. It’s important that we press, it’s important that we go a little further because Jesus went a little further, because Jesus fell on the wrong, because Jesus poured himself out. The father sent an angel to strengthen him.

You see, if you choose to stay around people and let them comfort you and let them encourage you and let them boost you up and all of those things, would you choose to do that? You’re going to miss the opportunity to get the true strip that got has for you. Listen, he said, “An angel will sit to strengthen him.” The angel came and it strengthened the Lord. He was able to get up he went to his disciples and he looked at them. He said, “Listen, why are you doing this? Get up.” He said, “You got to pray, because you got to watch and pray. I don’t want you to fall into temptation because I know this is the answer. If you keep praying, you’re going to pray your way through. If you keep praying, you’re going to press your way through. I know you’re tired, I know you’re sleepy, but your God will stay up and you got to pray your way through.”

He left, he went back and he prayed again. Notice something happened. When he prayed this time, he said, “Father, if the only way this cup will pass, is that I drink it, so be it. So be it, father. If that’s what I have to do, that’s what I have to do.”

Then notice he goes back to his disciples. This time he didn’t say a word to him, he just looked at him. He went back, he prayed again. The Bible says, he prayed the same way that he had just prayed the second time.

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And when he prayed that time, he came back and he said, “Look, you all sleep on. I don’t need you to pray right now. I don’t need you to do anything. I need to cover you with that.” He sat there and watched them sleep. He sat there and covered them as a good master, as a good servant, Lord, making sure they were okay.

And then when it was time, he said, “Look, you all need to get up. You all need to get up. My time is at hand. It’s time for things to move forward.” You need to watch this, be careful, watch, watch, watch, watch, watch. I want you to understand this. Here, Jesus had realized something had changed. Somebody said, “Something changed.” He was willing to go impress the little father. The angel strengthened him.

As the angel strengthened him, there was something that came alive in him. Something awakened in him. Something quickened in him, and he was able to press forward and fulfill what his father was calling him to do. He went back and noticed his role changed. When he went back, he was needing something from them the first time. But when he went back again, he said, “No, you all need me. I know you do. I understand you do and it’s okay. It’s okay. You’re going to go through somethings very soon and I need you to be able to be strong to get through this.”

Oh, my goodness. Here he was. Jesus was going through all of these things just trying to go a little further, just to go a little further. And when he could get there, he found the very thing that he needed in God, and it didn’t stop there. It didn’t stop there, because then, we understand what happened. We know that they came and they got him. They took him to Cleophas, and from Cleophas to Pontius Pilate and all of the things that happened, crucified him on the cross. He bled and died for you and for me, was buried, rose again.

And then we turned over within Matthew to chapter 28 around verse 8. This is after Mary Magdalene and the other Mary, they had witnessed the fact that the tomb had been opened, witnessed the fact that Jesus was no longer there and the angel spoke to them, “Why do you seek the living among the dead? He’s not here.”

So they go out and they’re excited. They’re in tears. They just don’t understand what’s going on but they’re excited. They’re thinking that this thing really has happened, and then when they go, they hear somebody say, “All hail!” It’s Jesus.

They fall down at his feet, grab his feet, worship him. He says, “Listen, don’t be afraid. Don’t be afraid. I need you to get up. I need you to go tell my brethren to meet me at Galilee. There they will see me.”

Now, this is important because when he told them that, he understood something about his disciples that they didn't understand about themselves. He understood the fact that they were in personal turmoil. Why? Why were they in turmoil? Because they had denied him. They had abandoned him. They had rejected him. They had fallen asleep at their will when they had the opportunity to uplift the Lord, who had given them purpose, given them life, showed them who they were. They fell asleep. And there it was, they were in personal turmoil, doubting themselves, wanting to do what Judas did and they didn't have the courage to do it. They sat there, not knowing what was going on. But yet Jesus said, "Go tell my brethren." He didn't say, "Go tell my servants." He didn't say, "Go tell my friends." He said, "Go tell my brethren."

Listen, something had happened. There was a change that had taken place, another change. There are so many things where Jesus and the Lord were changing things. Jesus, the first born of many brethren. Here it was, they were willing to be a servant. They were happy to be a friend, but because of the price that he paid at Calvary, they now became brothers.

And here it is, because of the relationship, he was able to look passed they're faults, forgive them on all of their wrongs and bring them into the place of where they're called to be. Because in spite of the things that they had done, in spite of what they missed, he still understood their purpose and their destiny and he wanted have them see him so they can look in his eye and he could tell them who they were.

That's why even when Thomas came, he said, "Listen, Thomas, here it is. You said you wouldn't believe unless you touched it. Here it is. See my hands? See my side?" And Thomas was able to say -- the only disciple to declare, "My Lord and my God, here it is." There are somethings that you're going to go through, there's some things that you're going to press through and you'll get to a place where it doesn't feel comfortable. But Church, I want to encourage you just to go a little further. Don't worry about those people around you.

Don't worry about the people that you've been believing for, you've been waiting on and it seems like it's not right. All the stuff you've done for them? What do you mean they're not going to do this? What do you mean they're not praying for me? What do you mean they're tired? That's not right. I was up for them, two in the morning, three in the morning. Why in world can't they stay for me at 11 o'clock at night when I need them the most?

But that's okay, because you know what Jesus wanted them to see. That all of these things are working together. Why? It's for the good. It was working together, all that stuff that they went through, all those things that you did. Yeah, I know you messed up. You were supposed to mess up. If Peter had never messed up, then he never would've been able to pray at Pentecost and see thousands saved, if he had not messed up. Listen, if they had not done the things that they've done, then they wouldn't have become what they were created to be.

Listen, your mistakes and your problems do not disqualify you. They simply prepare you for where God is taking you to. Jesus was able to forgive them and not worry about it because he was looking at them and saying, "Listen, I know exactly everything that's in you. And the fact that you have failed at this season does not disqualify you. It simply positions you to do even greater."

You ask yourself, "What mistakes have I made? Can I come back from this? Can I bounce back from this?" I hear the voice of one crying out. I hear my Lord Jesus saying "Oh, yes, you can." I know. I've seen it. And just because you didn't make it the last time doesn't mean you're not going to make it this time. Just because you dropped it the last time doesn't mean you're not going to pick it up this time and run ahead because I believe in the greatness that's in you, because the father had made you, and everything he makes is for purpose and on purpose.

There's a purpose for your life, there's purpose for your life. Can you say that with me? Say, "There's purpose for my life." That's why you got to go a little further. That's why you got to go a little further.

Listen, I know you've been praying, I understand that. You need to pray a little more. I know you've been praying with your prayer group, now you need to leave you prayer group alone and you need to go pray by yourself. They should have strengthened you

enough but you can go pray by yourself. I know you feel like you're isolated, I know you feel like you're by yourself. But that's where your strength comes.

Isolation before elevation. He brings you to the place. He wants to pour into you but you got to be willing to go a little further. Amen? Amen. God bless you. God bless you. Somebody, put your hands together. Let's give God a hand, clap of praise. Hallelujah! Come on, really praise him like you know, like you know you're going to go further this time. Amen, in the name of Jesus. Thank you so much for receiving me. God bless you.

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