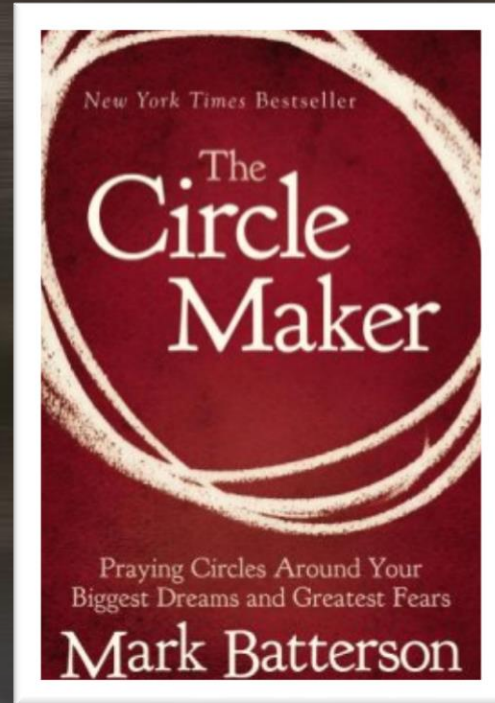


The Circle Maker:



Praying Circles Around Your Biggest
Dreams and Greatest Fears

Part Three

- ❖ Drawing prayer circles often looks like an exercise in foolishness.
- ❖ But that's faith.
- ❖ Faith is the willingness to look foolish.

- Noah looked foolish building a boat in the middle of a desert.
- The Israelite army looked foolish marching around Jericho blowing trumpets.
- A shepherd boy named David looked foolish charging a giant with a slingshot.

- The wise men looked foolish tracking a star to Timbuktu.
- Peter looked foolish getting out of a boat in the middle of the Sea of Galilee.
- And Jesus looked foolish wearing a crown of thorns.

But the results speak for themselves.

Noah was saved from the flood; the walls came tumbling down; ***David*** defeated ***Goliath***; the wise men discovered the Messiah; ***Peter*** walked on water; and ***Jesus*** was crowned the King of Kings.

Foolishness is a feeling that Moses was very familiar with. He had to feel foolish going before Pharaoh and demanding that Pharaoh let God's people go. He felt foolish raising his staff over the Red Sea.

And he most certainly felt foolish promising meat to eat for the entire nation of Israel in the middle of the wilderness.

But it was his willingness to look foolish that resulted in epic miracles.

Drawing prayer circles often *feels* foolish. And the bigger the circle you draw, the more foolish you'll feel. But if you aren't willing to step out of the boat, you'll never walk on water.

If you aren't willing to circle the city, the wall will never fall. And if you aren't willing to follow the star, you'll miss out on the greatest adventure of your life.

In order to experience a miracle, you have to take a risk. And one of the most difficult types of risk to take is risking your reputation.

Honi already had a reputation as a rainmaker, but he was willing to risk his reputation by praying for rain one more time. Honi took the risk and the rest is history.

The greatest chapters in history always begin with risk, and the same is true with the chapters of your life. If you're unwilling to risk your reputation, you'll never build the boat like Noah or get out of the boat like Peter.

You cannot build God's reputation if you aren't willing to risk yours.

There comes a moment when you need to make the call or make the move. ***Circle makers are risk takers.***

The people of Israel began to complain, “Oh, for some meat!” they exclaimed. “We remember all the fish we ate used to eat for free in Egypt. And we had all the cucumbers, melons, leeks, onions, and garlic that we wanted. But now our appetites are gone, and day after day we have nothing to eat but this manna!”

The Israelites were complaining.
Instead of manna, they want meat
to eat.

The Israelites longingly remember
the free fish they ate in Egypt, and
forget the little fact that the food
was free because *they weren't*.

The Israelites weren't just slaves, they had been the victims of genocide. Yet isn't it just a little ironic that the Israelites were complaining about one miracle while asking for another one?

We scoff at the Israelites for grumbling about a meal of manna that was miraculously delivered to their doorsteps every day, but don't we do the same thing?

There are miracles all around us all the time, yet it's so easy to find something to complain about in the midst of those miracles.

But we take those manna miracles, the miracles that happen day in and day out, for granted.

God's Response To Their Request For Meat

Despite their incessant complaining, God patiently responds with one of the most unfathomable promises in Scripture. God promises meat for a month.

Moses can hardly believe it.
Literally.

Here I am among six hundred thousand men on foot and you say, “I will give you meat to eat for a whole month!” Would they have enough if flocks and herds were slaughtered for them? Would they have enough if all the fish in the sea were caught for them?

Moses is doing the math in his mind and it doesn't add up. Not even close! He is trying to think of any conceivable way that God could fulfill this promise and he can't think of a single scenario. He doesn't see how God can fulfill His impossible promise for a day, let alone a month.

IMPOSSIBLE PROMISES

Meat for a month seems like an impossible promise. Moses has to decide whether or not he is going to circle it. Logic is screaming no; faith is whispering yes. Moses has to choose between logic and faith.

GOD'S MATH NEVER ADDS UP

In terms of addition, $5 + 2 = 7$.

But if you add God into the equation, $5 + 2 \neq 7$.

When you give what you have to God, He multiplies it so that $5 + 2 = 5,000$.

Not only does God multiply the meal so that it feeds five thousand, they actually end up with more leftovers than they had food to begin with.

Only in God's economy!

The twelve baskets of remainders means the most accurate equation is this: $5 + 2 = 5,000 \text{ R}12$.

If you put what little you have in your hand into the hand of God, it won't just add up; ***God will make it multiply.***

To activate God's love, Jesus gave thanks the night before.

He knew His Father would keep His promise. He didn't just pray through; He *praised* through.

This Is Crazy: You Are One Decision Away From A Different Life.

One defining decision can totally change the forecast of your life. Those defining decisions become the defining moments of our lives.

Moses risked his reputation and circled the promise. He pushed all of his credibility chips to the middle of the table and told the Israelites God was going to give them meat to eat.

This had to be one of the toughest decisions he ever made, one of the scariest sermons he ever preached, one of the craziest visions he ever cast.

It doesn't add up, but the will of God never does add up to human calculation.

Moses had no earthly idea how God was going to keep His promise, but that isn't our business. That's God's business.

Too often we let how get in the way of what God wants us to do.

We can't figure out how to do what God has called us to so , so we don't do it at all.

The Law of Measure: Eph. 3:20

When we find ourselves in situations beyond our control, we pray.

It seems like circling the promises of God is risky, but it's not nearly as risky as *not* circling the promises of God. The greatest risk is failing to circle the promises of God because we forfeit the miracles God wants to perform.

When we make a defining decision to give out of obedience, God's calculation will take a \$50 offering and triple it to \$6000.

When we circle the promise, write the check, God will multiply the provision.

Give, and it will be given to you. A good measure, pressed down, shaken together and running over, will be poured into your lap. For with the measure you use, it will be measured to you. Luke 6:38

If you give big, God will bless big. If you give for the right reasons, you'll never outgive God.

God will always give back more than you gave up.

When you live in
obedience, you position
yourself for blessing.

QUAILMAGEDDON

Now a wind went out from the LORD and drove quail in from the sea. It scattered them to up to two cubits deep all around the camp, as far as a day's walk in any direction. All that day and night and all the next day the people went out and gathered quail. No one gathered less than ten homers.

The Israelites were parked in the wilderness of Paran, a region about fifty miles inland from the Mediterranean Sea and fifty miles southwest of the Dead Sea. The significance of that is this: quail tend to live by the water and they don't fly long distances.

If it weren't for a supernatural west wind, they would have never made it this far inland. So this is a meteorological miracle. And it's not just a miraculous west wind. The clouds burst and rained quail from the sky.

Once the quail stopped falling, the Israelites started gathering. Each Israelite gathered no less than ten homers. Ten homers multiplied by six hundred thousand men equals six million homers at a minimum.

A homer equated to roughly 200 liters, and assuming that the quail were of an average size, it rained approximately one hundred and five million quail. God doesn't just provide in dramatic fashion; God provides in dramatic proportion.

MULTIPLICATION ANOINTING

God isn't offended by big dreams; He's offended by anything less.

Your dreams may start out small, and God will honor those humble dreams, but as your faith grows so do your dreams.

When you draw those God-sized circles, it gives the Omnipresent One room to work.

“I was a frustrated writer for thirteen years. I dreamed of writing a book, but I could never seem to finish a manuscript. The turning point was when I drew a circle around the dream during forty days of prayer and fasting.”

“I fasted from all forms of entertainment to stay focused on my goal. Then I stepped into a writing circle with a Honi-like determination that I wasn’t coming out until I had a manuscript in my hand.

Forty days later, the dream became a reality. I didn’t write that book; I prayed that book.”

“As an author, I’ve learned to pray circles around my books. As a pastor, I’ve learned to pray circles around our church. As a parent, I’ve learned to pray circles around our children.

It doesn’t matter what you do, you need to circle it in prayer.”

“If you’re a teacher, pray circles around your class by laying hands on the desks and asking God to bless the students who sit there. If you’re a doctor, pray circles around your patients and ask God to give you X-ray insight.”

“If you’re a politician, pray circles around the constituents you serve and the legislation you draft. If you’re an entrepreneur, pray circles around your product.”

“If you do the geometry and draw prayer circles around your Jericho, God will take care of the multiplication. And the bigger the prayer circle the more God can multiply. If you claim the promise, who knows: God might just send 105 million quail into your camp.”