

# It's Your Time... To Stretch... Out of Your Comfort Zone

Students Story pg 258

Professor major University... final exam... most important test of year... Told how proud he was of all them... disciplined... worked hard... excelled!

Done so well made a special offer... Anyone doesn't want to take test raise hand... Automatic C... 1 hand went up... then another... half class opted out... they were relieved... stress was off... happy to settle for average...

Professor passed out test to rest of students... placed forms on their desk face down... don't turn over till I tell you...

Next few min. encouraged them... gonna do great things w/ your life... congratulated them for not settling for mediocrity... You're willing to risk and stretch to give your best... Rewards will surely come...

Told them to turn test over & begin... To their shock all saw just two sentences...

**Congratulations! You just made an A**

- **People who are unable to motivate themselves must be content with mediocrity, no matter how impressive their other talents.** *Andrew Carnegie*

There's more POWER in you than you Realize... it just takes the right thing to stimulate it!

Oklahoma as a kid, climb fences... Bulls! Fences that I could barely climb over, I leapt over.

As a kid hearing vocalist doing warm ups, stretches, sounded really stupid, I'd never do that. Janet Kenyon... After I had recorded 18 times... taught me... I hit notes I'd never been able to

**Me doing something that looked bizarre before I sang actually made me sound better when I sang I could choose to look stupid and sound good, or try to look good and sound bad**

**Isaiah 54:2-3** (GWT)

Expand the space of your tent. **Stretch out** the curtains of your tent, and **don't hold back. Lengthen** your tent ropes, and **drive in the tent pegs.**

You will **spread out** to the right and left. Your descendants will take over other nations, and they will resettle deserted cities.

**Stretch... analogy with Sports...**

We stretch to improve our flexibility. Flexibility is the range of motion that is available to a joint or joints. Flexibility is important because:

- It **improves** muscle **balance around a joint**, thus improving posture
- It **reduces** the chance of **injury** when playing a sport or in everyday activities
- It **increases** the blood and nutrient **supply** to muscles and cartilage, thereby also reducing muscle soreness after training.

If you're not stretching your faith, to become who you're prewired to be you'll feel

- **Out of Balance in relationships...** Connections necessary to Posture you for Promotion.
- **Easily Injured & offended** through everyday interactions Relationally & Emotionally
- Constant state of Fatigue... Sore... **Frustrated w/ life... Irritated w/ people**

Too often we settle for far less than we should... Unwilling to stretch or try just a little harder

- Daytona & Indianapolis 500... Last 10 years of each race combined winner took checkered flag 1.54 seconds & took home \$1,278,813.00 1<sup>st</sup> prize money
- Second place... \$621,321.00... difference 657,492.00
- Average margin of victory in last 25 years of pro golf tournaments... less than 3 strokes
- Winner took home 76% more prize dollars than 2<sup>nd</sup> place finisher

If we're not uncomfortable once in a while we're not using our faith...

- Me struggling with shyness as a kid... Called to Preach at 16... Scared to death... Sick & drinking...
- I had elevated the opinion of people above the opinion of GOD... Repented & Printed a Poster...
- I Stretched... Got a camera... Tripod... Took pix... Danny Chambers Faith Crusade Coming Soon...

Most effective Evangelists... not at top of honor roll in Bible School... Jonah... Woman @ Well... Peter

All 3 it was the FEAR of MAN that threatened to LOCK UP their Destiny

### 1 Corinthians 1:27 (The Message)

I don't see many of "the brightest and the best" among you, not many influential, not many from high-society families. Isn't it obvious that God deliberately chose men and women that the culture overlooks and exploits and abuses, chose these "nobodies" to expose the hollow pretensions of the "somebodies"?

Even Jesus had reluctance... Not yet my Time...

Mary went Sister on Him... Parents see things in their kids... She knew He had skills wasn't using...

Perhaps He had passed a couple great opps with Lepers... Mary... Let's start w/ something simple...

Our chief want in life is for someone to inspire us to be all that we want to be.

## What would you attempt to do if you knew you couldn't fail?

How many believe you could be stretched far more and experience GREATER THINGS

Why do most people fail to even attempt? FEAR OF MAN... Rejection

### Proverbs 29:25 (The Message)

The fear of human opinion disables; trusting in God protects you from that.

Most pastors don't give invitations because they perceive no response as personal REJECTION

Most people like to stay in their COMFORT ZONE... Dreams don't come true in Comfort Zone

The moment we come to Christ... not only savior but Spiritual Trainer... Stretching you

Called the life of faith... the risk of faith... the leap of faith...

- Moses... Stretch out your Rod & Waters will Part... Joshua had to stretch in a different way.
- Have to be willing to STRETCH, step into what could take you out! FLOOD WATERS

## John 20:19... For Fear of the Jews...

Jesus knew that the message of Hope & Salvation would stop unless they conquered FEAR OF MAN

DAY of PENTECOST... 50 days after Passover... 120 out of 500 Stretching & praying for the promised Power... Going the extra mile... doing what others were unwilling to do.

1. They Got Louder
2. They Had Fun... perceived to be drunk
3. They Were Bold in their Witness & Connected w/ People they'd never met
4. They stretched out of their comfort zone & grew from 120 to 3120 in one day!

Naaman Commander of Army of Syria had leprosy. ~ **Stretch for him was to do something that was humbling.**

2 Kings 5:9 So Naaman with his horses and chariots arrived in style and stopped at Elisha's door.

<sup>10</sup> Elisha sent out a servant to meet him with this message: "Go to the River Jordan and immerse yourself seven times. Your skin will be healed and you'll be as good as new."

<sup>11-12</sup> Naaman lost his temper. He turned on his heel saying, "I thought he'd personally come out and meet me, call on the name of God, wave his hand over the diseased spot, and get rid of the disease. The Damascus rivers, Abana and Pharpar, are cleaner by far than any of the rivers in Israel. Why not bathe in them? I'd at least get clean." He stomped off, mad as a hornet.

<sup>13</sup> But his servants caught up with him and said, "Father, if the prophet had asked you to do something hard and heroic, wouldn't you have done it? So why not this simple 'wash and be clean'?"

<sup>14</sup> So he did it. He went down and immersed himself in the Jordan seven times, following the orders of the Holy Man. His skin was healed; it was like the skin of a little baby. He was as good as new.

- Stretch of Faith is often doing something you don't want to do to get something you can't do without.

Japanese Koi Fish can only grow according to the size of the pond it's in.

Exactly why God spoke to Abram & said get out of your country... I'm taking you to a new POND!

Location, location, location... not just a realtor's sign! God created places before people; matched them accordingly...

- Polar Bear doesn't flourish in Brazil... Whales don't do well in the Rocky Mountains
- Likewise Every Person has a Specific Place where they'll come Alive & Thrive
- Sometimes the place your assigned will feel like it's not working... Elisha had to stick with Elijah a long time before he Got the Blessing of a Double Portion

Want to close with the thought of joining the church... Planting for Purpose, Promise & Prosperity