
“Limping in the Jungle”

Theme: *Choose Again!*

Text: Isaiah 41:10; 2 Timothy 1:7; Joshua 1:9; 1 John 4:18; John 14:27

Robert Toney 2024

Opening:

Beloved, I must begin with a confession. This is my first time standing in this sacred space with a sermon that is mine — not just in my spirit, but from my pen and prayer. I’ve sat in the pews, listened from the back rows and the balconies. I’ve admired the boldness of the preachers, the power in their cadence, the anointing in their message — and I never thought that would be me.

So, I come before you today — not with perfection, but with prayer. Let us pray:

“More of You, Lord. Less of me. In Jesus’ name, Amen.”

Situation: Limping in the Jungle

Let me ask you — anybody here consider themselves outdoorsy?

Hiking? Climbing mountains? Caving in Kentucky? Safari in South Africa?

No? Me neither! Listen — I’m so cautious, I don’t even like entering a room full of toddlers — let alone walk where lions roam!

But let’s imagine... you’re deep in the jungle on a guided trek. And what happens? You trip. You fall. You sprain your ankle. And suddenly... you’re limping in the jungle. You already know what that means. The predators — they notice. The eyes of the wild are watching. And who’s the easiest catch? Not the strong ones, not the ones standing tall — but the one who’s *limping*.

Family, can I tell you something? There’s a name for that kind of moment. When you lead with weakness. When you apologize for who you are before you even start. The business world calls it *“limping in the jungle.”* It’s when we shrink ourselves before we even show our gifts.

Complication: The Spirit of the Limp

And if we're honest... haven't we all done it?

We limp with fear.

We limp with doubt.

We limp with that inner voice that says, *"Who do you think you are?"*

We get called to serve — and instead of stepping forward, we start apologizing:

"I'm not ready."

"I'm not worthy."

"Somebody else is more qualified."

And what's worse — we start believing that voice.

That voice is the predator. That voice is the hyena in your jungle.

And sometimes — let's be real — that predator ain't outside of us. It's *inside*.

It's our own self-talk, rooted in trauma, shame, perfectionism, insecurity.

But hear me today — that's not the voice of God.

Resolution: Choose Again!

The Word says:

Isaiah 41:10 – *"Fear not, for I am with you... I will uphold you with my righteous right hand."*

2 Timothy 1:7 – *"God has not given us a spirit of fear, but of power, love, and a sound mind."*

Joshua 1:9 – *"Be strong and courageous... the Lord your God is with you wherever you go."*

Church — when you feel the limp coming... when that fear creeps in... when the self-doubt starts whispering again...

Choose Again!

You can choose peace over panic.

You can choose faith over fear.

You can choose purpose over paralysis.

You can say: *"No! I know who I am — because I know Whose I am!"*

Celebration: No More Limping!

And here's the shout:

You don't walk this jungle alone!

You don't face your fears without backup!

You don't have to generate your own courage — because courage is *given*!

And listen — “*Fear not*” shows up in the Bible 365 times.
That’s one for *every single day of the year!*
That’s daily bread. Daily strength. Daily grace!

So I dare you — when you start to limp...

Pause. Think. BREATHE. And Choose Again!

Tell your fear:

You don’t live here.

Tell your shame:

You’ve overstayed your welcome.

Tell your doubt:

There’s no seat for you at this table.

Because *there is no one in this universe who is un-blessed.*

Not you. Not me. Not even on our worst day.

Close: A No-Limp Testimony

So today — January 17, 2024 — is my testimony.

I’ve written and preached my first sermon.

I have no limp left to hide behind.

TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

If you’re with me, say it with me:

“No more limping! I will Choose Again!”
