



When the
MATH
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MATHING

S E R M O N G U I D E

NO LIMITS WITH PASTOR DELMAN

When The Math Ain't Mathing

Deuteronomy 2:7

INTRODUCTION

In accounting, every number must balance. The credits and debits must align perfectly because when the "math is mathing," it signals that everything is okay. This idea has entered our culture; when we say, "the math ain't mathing," we mean something is wrong. We see it all around us. We see it when politicians promise transparency but then block access to information. We see it when corporate profits soar while wages for average Americans stay the same. We see it when budgets for prisons increase, but investments in schools and communities decline. Something is deeply off.

This way of thinking makes sense in the world, but it becomes a problem when we apply it to our spiritual lives. We get stuck when we expect God's promises to add up according to our human logic. In God's economy, things don't always reconcile on a human balance sheet. He knows how to create abundance from scarcity and do more with less. This is what God was trying to teach the people of Israel. As they stood on the edge of their future, they looked at what they lacked and concluded the math was not mathing. What they failed to understand, and what we must grasp today, is that God's power is most visible right in the middle of our deficits.

KEY POINTS

1. God Provides When the Math Isn't Mathing

The first generation of Israelites got stuck because they reduced God's provision to what they could see and count. They saw their limited resources and concluded they could not fulfill God's call. But God's provision extends far beyond the material. When God says, "You have lacked nothing," He is reminding us that His blessings are not always a bigger paycheck. Sometimes, God's provision is better timing, a wiser decision, or unexpected favor. It can be a protected mind, a spared life, or a new idea that multiplies your impact. God's provision might even be a delay that protects you from a weight you are not yet ready to carry. When you look back, you will realize the greatest provision was not what you held in your hand, but what God developed in your heart.

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2. God Protects When the Math Isn't Mathing

Time and time again, God protected Israel from enemies that were bigger, stronger, and more powerful. He was their defense against every plot and plan designed to stop their progress. This same protection is available to us. God shields us from people, powers, and situations that try to block our path and throw us off course. Many of us can testify to the ways God has protected us from enemies, both seen and unseen, and delivered us from circumstances that should have destroyed us. After all those years in the wilderness, God told His people they lacked no protection. Every time they needed Him, He was there. In fact, He blocked dangers they were not even aware of, securing them in ways they could not secure themselves.

3. God Preserves When the Math Isn't Mathing

We often think of deliverance as God removing a threat. We praise Him when the diagnosis changes, the enemy backs down, or the storm passes. But there is a deeper, more mature dimension of deliverance. Sometimes, deliverance is not God subtracting the battle; it is God strengthening the believer *in* the battle. Deliverance does not always eliminate the fire; sometimes, God preserves you from being consumed *by* the fire. In the wilderness, the Israelites' clothes did not wear out, and their feet did not swell (*Deuteronomy 8:4*). That is preservation. They lacked nothing because God not only protected them from trouble but also preserved them in trouble. The best prayer is not always, "Lord, remove this." Sometimes, the most faithful prayer is, "Lord, keep me while I am going through this."

When we walk with God, we are not fighting *for* victory; we are fighting *from* a victory that has already been secured for us. The journey through the wilderness was designed to teach Israel this truth, and it is a lesson for us today. When the math of your life doesn't seem to add up, it is an opportunity for God to correct flawed thinking and reveal His glory. It keeps us from taking credit that belongs only to Him. Your situation is setting you up for a testimony, so that when you come through this, you will declare that if it had not been for the Lord on your side, you would not have made it.

This understanding changes how we face our trials. It turns praise into an act of spiritual resistance. When life is unstable, praise is a weapon that comes from knowing God is still God. It is a refusal to let suffering have the last word. For our ancestors, praise was not just for Sunday mornings; it was a resource for survival in the cotton fields and on the tobacco farms. When their bodies were burdened and their dignity was assaulted, they sang because they refused to let suffering steal their joy. So when you don't see a way through, praise your way through. When you look back over your life and see the moments you should have run out, quit, or collapsed, you will know it was not your genius. It was God's grace.

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QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

1. In what areas of your life have you been evaluating God's faithfulness based on what you have materially? How can you begin to recognize His provision in non-material ways, such as wisdom, timing, or resilience?
2. Reflect on a past challenge where you felt outnumbered or under-resourced. How can you now see God's protection or preservation at work in that situation, even if you did not recognize it at the time?
3. How does the distinction between being delivered *from* trouble and being preserved *in* trouble change your perspective on a current struggle you are facing? What would it look like to pray for preservation instead of removal?
