

# BE BOLD

*Finding Your Fierce*

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## LIMITATION PROPHECIES

*So he asked Jesse, "Are these all the sons you have?" "There is still the youngest," Jesse answered. "He is tending the sheep." Samuel said, "Send for him; we will not sit down until he arrives."*

*1 Samuel 16:11*

## So What?

Reflect on your family of origin.

What “limitation prophecies” were spoken over you?

How are you still working through these? Have you allowed the labels and limitations to prohibit you from fiercely trusting forward?

How might perceived limitations get reimagined?

What will it take in this season of your life to find your fierce?

### **In Addition**

What limitations have you spoken over your family: kids, grandkids, nieces, or nephews? How might you begin speaking a more positive future into their lives?

Prayer:

*Open our eyes and help us see our lives, our families, our experiences the way that you see them, God. Give us and those we love the compassion and mercy to dive deep and look for the fuel that ignites our fierce.*

## THIN SLICE OF LIFE

*Go, gather together all the Jews who are in Susa, and fast for me. Do not eat or drink for three days, night or day. I and my attendants will fast as you do. When this is done, I will go to the king, even though it is against the law. And if I perish, I perish.*

*(Esther 4:16)*



## So What?

For each one reading today, dare to recognize your own power. Dare to realize your unique potential. Fully surrender your fear and fiercely trust forward. You and I have been created in the very image of God, and God wants to use our very best selves to transform the small thinking and brokenness of this world into resurrected life. Here's the deal, folks—we are all going to die. Not one of us will get out of this life alive! The question is not, Will you die? The question is, Will you actually live? Will you live a life of fierce trust?

And to the women reading this book . . . sisters! Don't shrink back, do not limit your potential, don't quiet your voice, and certainly don't think that just because you are a woman that you can't be used by God: in the name of Jesus Christ, find your fierce!

When you think back over your life, can you pinpoint moments of fear?

Who in your life spoke limitation prophecies over you? How did they shape your perception of yourself: in school, at home, in your career, or in your future choices?

When did you first realize that you needed to find your fierce? How did you respond to the situation?

Who in your life started as an adversary and turned into an advocate?

Name the adversaries in your life. Can they be transformed into advocates? If not, why do these folks have space in your life?

## CONFESSIONS OF A MEAN GIRL

*Your beauty should not come from outward adornment, such as elaborate hairstyles and the wearing of gold jewelry or fine clothes. Rather, it should be that of your inner self, the unfading beauty of a gentle and quiet spirit, which is of great worth in God's sight. For this is the way the holy women of the past who put their hope in God used to adorn themselves. They submitted themselves to their own husbands, like Sarah, who obeyed Abraham and called him her lord. You are her daughters if you do what is right and do not give way to fear.*

*1 Peter 3:3-6*

## So What?

Has your fierce ever turned into force?

When has someone else's fierce been a source of pain for you?

Were you bullied in middle school? Were you a bully in middle school?

Is there anyone in your life to whom you would like to say, "I am sorry"?

How do you see yourself? How do you see others?

How can we work together to eliminate "Jessie experiences" in our schools, across our neighborhoods, and throughout the world?

## FIERCE REBELLION

*Now the betrayer had arranged a signal with them: "The one I kiss is the man; arrest him and lead him away under guard." Going at once to Jesus, Judas said, "Rabbi!" and kissed him. The men seized Jesus and arrested him. Then one of those standing near drew his sword and struck the servant of the high priest, cutting off his ear. "Am I leading a rebellion," said Jesus, "that you have come out with swords and clubs to capture me?"*

*Mark 14:44-48*

## So What?

Make a list of the people who get on your nerves. Why do they bother you? Why are you frustrated?

Have you ever named the people who get on your nerves as enemies?

What does Jesus have to say about our enemies throughout the New Testament? Does Jesus's example of nonviolent resistance challenge you? Does it inspire you?

What did you think you signed up for when you signed up to follow Jesus?

What if you lived ready to be pulled into the rebellion?  
What if you didn't hold back?

## WHEN RELATIONSHIPS BOIL

*While he was still talking with them, Rachel came with her father's sheep, for she was a shepherd. When Jacob saw Rachel, daughter of his uncle Laban, and Laban's sheep, he went over and rolled the stone away from the mouth of the well and watered his uncle's sheep. Then Jacob kissed Rachel and began to weep aloud.*

*Genesis 29:9-11*

## So What?

When you think about your most significant relationship, what unrealistic expectations do you bring to the relationship table? Does your spouse have expectations that you cannot fulfill? How are you tending to your own physical, mental, and spiritual health?

What regular practices give you time to develop your marriage relationship? Are you dating your spouse?

What season of marriage are you in? What challenges does your season of life bring to the marriage relationship?

Do you have subjects in your marriage relationship that are off limits? What makes them difficult to talk about? What would it take for you to develop a safe space for challenging conversations?

## DEFINING MOMENTS

*You will conceive and give birth to a son, and you are to call him Jesus. He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. The Lord God will give him the throne of his father David, and he will reign over Jacob's descendants forever; his kingdom will never end.*

*Luke 1:31-33*

## So What?

When thinking about the story of your life, what were your defining moments? Were they during a “sanitized” time in your life, or did they happen smack-dab in the middle of a mess?

Do you believe your life purpose includes all of you? You are a fully embodied person. What fears do you need to overcome?

Do you have fear-soaked ruts in your head that shape your daily decisions? How can you make room for fierce and put fear in its proper place?

What real-life decisions are in front of you? What’s your reaction to the yes? To the no? Is this a God opportunity?

## FACING THE PHARAOH

*Moses answered, "What if they do not believe me or listen to me and say, 'The LORD did not appear to you?'" Then the LORD said to him, "What is that in your hand?"*

*Exodus 4:1-2*

## So What?

Think back over your personal and professional career. What are your “go to” excuses when you are confronted with your own weakness or failure?

Have you ever had to have hard conversations with people? When have you failed to tell someone the truth about a situation?

Have people ever had to have hard conversations with you? How did you respond? When have you taken criticism personally? Can you reimagine a path for receiving that constructive feedback?

Can you name the people in your life who are for you? Do you have a Tim?

What is happening in your organization? Do you need to redefine your leadership? What would it take to lead your way out of a leadership deficit?

Make a plan to fiercely grow your leadership!

## SOMETIMES SILENT

*Now a man of the tribe of Levi married a Levite woman, and she became pregnant and gave birth to a son. When she saw that he was a fine child, she hid him for three months.*

*Exodus 2:1-2*

## So What?

Holding secrets can be a powerful privilege, but when paired with pain can destroy lives. Have you ever been asked to hold someone else's secret? Was this an opportunity for you to hold a life-giving confidence or was this secret a source of shame?

Who taught you to talk about hard subjects? How did this go with your family? Did it create a tension-filled room ready to explode in the moment, or did your family deploy a series of avoidance tactics?

Not all secrets are created equal, and not all secrets are safe for you or others to keep. It is really important to make sure the secret you are holding is not jeopardizing your life, the lives of others, or the lives of people groups. What unhealthy secret do you need to tell?

Presence can be fierce. When has being silent been the most life-giving action you could take for yourself or for others? Silence can be fierce.

## MENTORSHIP

*Don't let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in conduct, in love, in faith and in purity. Until I come, devote yourself to the public reading of Scripture, to preaching and to teaching. Do not neglect your gift, which was given you through prophecy when the body of elders laid their hands on you.*

*1 Timothy 4:12-14*

## So What?

Who has shared their fierce with you? Has someone else's fierce ever saved your life?

“All leadership begins with self-leadership.” How are you leading yourself? What areas of your life are lacking leadership?

Who is speaking boldly into your life today? Do you have any truth-tellers in your life?

Are you a truth-teller or encourager for someone else? Make a list of the people speaking into you and the people you are speaking into. Name one person you know who needs that encouragement today.

## FIERCELY ANOINTED

*“Certainly, I will go with you,” said Deborah. “But because of the course you are taking, the honor will not be yours, for the LORD will deliver Sisera into the hands of a woman.” So Deborah went with Barak to Kedesh.*

*Judges 4:9*

## So What?

Who in your life has lived out his or her fierce?

Can you name a Deborah in your life? What about that person's identity was so contagious?

How did he or she overcome life's obstacles?

What limitations do you imagine as a result your story? What limitations do you place on yourself? Have you ever had moments of "I can't do this"? How did you overcome those moments? How are you overcoming those moments now?

Ever been silent when you needed to be fierce? When were you able to lean on the fierce of others?

# NOTES

## 3. Confessions of a Mean Girl

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2. Mary Beth Quirk, “Abercrombie’s ‘We Only Like Cool Kids’ CEO Stepping Down from Throne Made of Cargo Pants,” *Consumerist*, December 9, 2014, <https://consumerist.com/2014/12/09/abercrombies-we-only-like-cool-kids-ceo-stepping-down-from-throne-made-of-cargo-pants/>.

## 4. Fierce Rebellion

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2. Stanley Hauerwas, *The Hauerwas Reader*, eds. John Berkman and Michael Cartwright (Durham and London: Duke University Press, 2001), 257–58.

## 6. Defining Moments

1. Marianne Williamson, *A Return to Love: Reflections on the Principles of “A Course in Miracles”* (New York: HarperCollins, 1992), 190.

## NOTES

### **7. Facing the Pharaoh**

1. Bishop T. D. Jakes, “Combustible Passion,” 2010 Willow Creek Association Leadership Summit. For a summary of the full remarks, see <http://henrywill4.blogspot.com/2010/08/leadership-summit-2010-final-session.html>.

### **10. Fiercely Anointed**

1. William Ritter, “Four Who Showed Me the Door,” *Ritter Writes*, July 25, 2004, [www.ritterwrites.com/writings/2017/8/21/four-who-showed-me-the-door](http://www.ritterwrites.com/writings/2017/8/21/four-who-showed-me-the-door).

2. Ritter, “Four Who Showed Me the Door.”

3. Ritter, “Four Who Showed Me the Door.”