Moving Mountains
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"Prayer is the Key"
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Key Verses: Mark 11:22-24

Key Thought: Prayer that connects us with the heart of God is the key to overcoming challenges in our life that have seemed insurmountable.

Points to Consider:
- "Moving mountains" is <u>not</u> as simple as "Say it, and it will be done." ← The preceding context (Mark 11:11-21) depicts the tree as an image of the temple: as Jesus did not find fruit on the tree and so judged the tree, Jesus did not find a place of prayer for all nations in the temple and so judged the temple. → The preceding context stresses the priority of the will of <u>God</u> (as opposed to our own), and also that what God wants is prayer that connects us with Him.
- While His teaching on "moving mountains" was on one level literal (referring to the destruction of the temple), it also functions as a hyperbolic image to teach us that such prayer makes the impossible possible. For example, God can empower us to overcome challenges in our life that have seemed insurmountable:

Finances/Money	Worry/Fear
Family Dynamics/Children	Addictions/Unhealthy Habits
Marriage/Singleness	Illness/Poor Health
Grief/Loss	Stress/Overworking
Depression/Anxiety	Lack of Clarity/Direction/Focus

- The A.C.T.S. model of prayer serves to connect us with God's heart before we jump to asking Him to move on our behalf (and in a way that may not be aligned with His will).
  - i. **A**doration: Worship God— with your whole heart— for who He is.
  - ii. **C**onfession: Agree with God, and turn from what is sinful in your life to Him.
  - iii. **T**hanksgiving: Thank God for the ways you have experienced His grace.
  - iv. **S**upplication: Ask God for what is good.

Discussion Prompts:
- What's the problem with the simplistic perspective, "Say it, and it will be done?"
- Describe what has been a "mountain" in your life.
- What do you believe about the will of God concerning that "mountain?"
- Pray according to the A.C.T.S. model (with a leader signaling when to progress).

Message Notes – Mason Stewart