

RIDDLES

Christian Center Church
Midweek Connection
November 29, 7:00 PM
Part 6



"Moving Mountains"

Matthew 17:14-20

What an incredibly strong statement the Lord makes here – ***nothing*** shall be impossible to you

- At the end of the day – we will either believe that Jesus meant what He said or we won't

Matthew 17:20

And Jesus said unto them, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.

Life in the Kingdom of God is a life of complete faith in that which you do not see

- Spiritual success depends completely on believing in something that you cannot see

2Corinthians 5:7

For we walk by faith, not by sight

Galatians 2:20

I live by the faith of the Son of God, who loved me, and gave himself for me.

Hebrews 11:1, 6

Now faith is the substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things not seen. ... 6 But without faith [it is] impossible to please [him]: for he that cometh to God must believe that he is, and [that] he is a rewarder of them that diligently seek him.

- Faith is the driving force behind the life of every Believer because we are required to put our trust entirely in that which we cannot see
- Yet this is not a blind faith – but rather faith based on the evidence of the Written Word of God
- Up to this point – the Power was always there because Jesus was always there

Up to this point in your life you have not really had to exercise this level of faith because you have always had what you needed

- You have been able to see the provision in front of you
- You have been able to see the answer in front of you
- You really haven't had to believe in that which you don't see
- But there is soon coming a time in which that which you have depended on for your faith may not be there

Why is Jesus not with them? – He is on Mt. Tabor being supernaturally transfigured

Matthew 17:1-2

And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, 2 And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

- But the rest of the disciples were in the valley having their faith challenged

Matthew 17:15

Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water

- The real challenges to your faith will not come while you are on the mountain top of victory – it will come while you are in the valley fighting the enemy
- Your faith isn't developed during times of great opportunity – your faith is developed during times of great opposition
- What the enemy tries to use to destroy you – God uses to develop you

Principle #1: Acknowledge You Already Have the Faith You Need to Move the Mountain

Matthew 17:17

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me

Jesus saw what the disciples were capable of doing but they didn't

Matthew 10:1

And when he had called unto [him] his twelve disciples, he gave them power [against] unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to heal all manner of sickness and all manner of disease.

- Jesus had authorized them with power over unclean spirits – they simply didn't appropriate that power
- We complain about that which God has given us the power to change

Matthew 17:17

Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation

When Jesus says "faithless" it doesn't mean they didn't have faith; the word in the Greek actually means "unfaithful"

- They just simply were unfaithful in using the faith they had been given

Romans 12:3

God hath dealt to every man the measure of faith.

It is not the amount of faith that matters – it is the appropriation of that faith that makes the difference

Remember how tiny the mustard seed is

- It takes about 750 of them to make up a single gram
- There are 28 grams in an ounce
- That would mean that there are some 21,000 mustard seeds in an ounce
- Simply understanding the principle of faith doesn't move mountains; exercising the power of faith does
- Part of His frustration was also that Jesus saw the urgency of the disciples learning to exercise this faith because He was not going to be with them much longer

...how long shall I be with you?

- If you don't get it now – you are going to be in trouble
- If you can't exercise power while I am here with you – how are you going to exercise it when I am gone?

Principle #2: Address the Mountain by Name

Matthew 17:20

And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain

Pointed faith is powerful faith

- When the disciples were on the Sea of Galilee and the storm arose

Mark 4:39

And he arose, and rebuked the wind, and said unto the sea, Peace, be still. And the wind ceased, and there was a great calm.

- Jesus spoke directly to the source of what was bringing fear into the lives of these disciples

Stop right now and think about this: what is it that is hindering you from making progress in your life?

- You will never conquer that which you don't confront

Principle #3: Take Authority Over the Mountain

Matthew 17:20

If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove

Jesus didn't just say speak to the mountain – He said tell it where to go

- You can't tell someone or something where to go unless you have authority over it

Matthew 8:9

For I am a man under authority, having soldiers under me: and I say to this [man], Go, and he goeth; and to another, Come, and he cometh; and to my servant, Do this, and he doeth it

- Why did the centurion say that?

Matthew 8:6-8

And saying, Lord, my servant lieth at home sick of the palsy, grievously tormented. 7 And Jesus saith unto him, I will come and heal him. 8 The centurion answered and said, Lord, I am not worthy that thou shouldest come under my roof: but speak the word only, and my servant shall be healed.

- Spiritual authority is found in the power of our words

Matthew 8:32

And he said unto them, Go. And when they were come out, they went into the herd of swine: and, behold, the whole herd of swine ran violently down a steep place into the sea, and perished in the waters.