

Lord's Day Service Message
7/5/2015

Faith That Can Move Mountains

Matthew 17:14-21

¹⁴ When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. ¹⁵ "Lord, have mercy on my son," he said. "He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. ¹⁶ I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him."

¹⁷ "You unbelieving and perverse generation," Jesus replied, "how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me." ¹⁸ Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.

¹⁹ Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, "Why couldn't we drive it out?"

²⁰ He replied, "Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you."

In ancient days, mountains were thought to be the most stable of all things. So figuratively, a mountain meant an impossible obstacle for man to overcome. We are facing many mountains in our lives: the mountain of difficult people, the mountain of incurable sickness, and the mountain of financial difficulties.

These mountains should be moved. But we have no idea and no power to move them. But in today's word, Jesus shows us how to move the mountains in our lives.

Bring your mountains to Jesus

A man had a son who was suffering from a terrible disease which no doctor could heal. For that man, his son's incurable disease was a mountain. He came to Jesus' disciples to ask them to heal his son. But

they were not able to heal the son. The father got disappointed at the powerlessness of the disciples.

But the disappointment made the father bring the mountain to Jesus, and Jesus moved the mountain. When the father was disappointed by men, he learned to bring his mountain to the Lord who moved the mountain. Jesus rebuked the demon in the child. As soon as He rebuked the demon it came out of the child and the child was healed. He showed that there was demonic power in the boy's sickness. He showed that there was a spiritual battle. He showed that His word had the power to disarm and crush the power of a demon (Colossians 2:15).

Today, people are coming to church to find a way to move mountains in their lives. And they may get disappointed at powerless believers.

But the Lord uses the disappointment to turn their eyes from looking at the powerless believers to looking at the almighty Lord Himself. Have you ever brought your mountains to pastors or leaders in the church? Have you ever expected that God would do something miraculous through their ministries and prayers, but got disappointed at their powerlessness?

Even if they fail and are powerless, the Lord Jesus Himself never fails and He is still all powerful to move your mountains.

There was a church in a town which had a small parking lot. When the church membership grew the parking lot was too small and the church desperately needed to expand the parking lot. But there was no available land around the church except a mountain. The church tried to raise funds to move to a place where they could find enough parking spaces. But the fund raising failed. They got disappointed.

One day, they gathered together to pray about the matter. They read this text together and started praying, "Lord, we have no way to get more parking spaces, except the land where the mountain stands. If you move the mountain, we can make enough parking spaces. Lord please move

the mountain.” Some time later the local electric company called the church and asked whether the church was willing to sell the mountain to the company. The company needed not the land but the rocks from the mountain to build a facility. The company broke the whole mountain into pieces of rocks and paid to the church for the rocks. With the money the church could make a large parking lot on the land where the mountain had stood.

Bring your mountains to the Lord who can move them. He will take care of your mountains. He will never disappoint you.

Renew and exercise your faith

Before this incident happened Jesus had given them healing gifts (Matthew 10:1). With the healing gifts they had successfully healed some of the sick (Luke 10:17). So when the father brought his sick son to them they thought they could heal the sick boy too. They used their faith to heal the sick boy as they had done to heal the other sick people. But at that time, they were unable to heal the sick boy. Imagine their frustration. “Why didn’t our faith and healing gifts work at this time? What’s going on?”

So the disciples asked Jesus why they were powerless. Jesus replied to them: “... *if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*”

Renew your faith constantly.

When the disciples asked Jesus why they could not heal the sick boy, Jesus did not say to them “why did you not use the healing gift I gave you?” Jesus didn’t say to them “why didn’t you heal the boy as you have healed the other sick people?” Jesus said, “if you have faith as small as a mustard seed..”

What did Jesus mean by this word? He meant that the faith they had used before would not automatically work again in a new situation. He meant that they needed faith that was renewed.

God works not through our past faith, but through our present faith. God works not through faith of yesterday but through faith of today.

Our faith must be renewed to be a living and working faith. How? By constantly praying to God and having fellowship with God. God works through renewed and living faith. Jesus often withdrew to solitary places to have communion with God (Matthew 14:23; Mark 1:35; Luke 4:42). By doing so He kept receiving the power of the Holy Spirit.

Are you wondering why your faith is not working as it worked in the past? Do not rely upon the past faith you used. Make your faith new every day. Have devotional time with God every day. Listen to Him every day and receive new power of the Holy Spirit from Him every day.

Exercise your faith boldly.

Here Jesus says that they do not need great faith to receive mountain moving power. He said that faith as small as mustard seed can move mountains. How? By exercising this small faith boldly. Jesus said: *“you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”*

Jesus releases His mountain moving power when we exercise our small faith boldly. This is very good news! We don't have to be giants in the faith to see our mountains moved. We don't have to be a Billy Graham. We can have mustard seed faith – small faith - and still see God do the impossible in our lives!

To exercise our small faith boldly, we must speak out what we believe.

By speaking out what you believe, you are sowing the seed of miracles in your life. As a seed grows through a farmer's proper care, the seed of

faith grows through your proper care. To take care of your faith properly, you have to speak out.

When you keep speaking negative words, it will grow to be a negative force in your life. But if you keep speaking positive words with faith, it will grow into a miraculous force.

It does not mean that you should speak from self-confidence. It means that you should speak with faith in the almighty Lord, who can enable you to move all mountains.

Mark's gospel account of the same incident explains well this point (mark 9: 21-24). When the father was disappointed by the powerless disciples, his faith in Jesus was shaken with doubt. He said to Jesus, "if you can do anything, take pity on us and help us." But Jesus encouraged the father to overcome the doubt and put trust in Him who could move the mountain regardless of his disciples' failure. Jesus said, "*If you can? Everything is possible for one who believes.*" Immediately the boy's father exclaimed, "I do believe; help me overcome my unbelief!"

What honesty! What transparency! Here is a man who had honest doubts and still saw Jesus do the impossible! The point is that he did not have great faith. His faith was very small. However he exercised his small faith by speaking out to the Lord.

When we are fearful of mountains and can't move, Jesus commands us to exercise our faith; "*Exercise your faith even if it is small.*"

While we hear the command of the Lord we have to exercise our faith boldly, "Lord I believe you are the conqueror of all mountains. I believe I can conquer all mountains with your power."

And we must move forward. We may not be able to move all the mountains at once. But when we keep taking one small step after another, the Lord will help us to move the mountains.

Are you facing mountains in your life today? Believe that the Lord releases His mountain moving power through your small faith. With your small faith, boldly speak out to the mountain to move: *“Lord I believe you can help me to move this mountain. You, mountain, with faith in my mountain moving Lord, I command you, ‘Move!’”*

When you wake up, speak out your faith. Before you go to bed, speak out your faith. Whenever you are challenged by mountains, keep speaking out your faith, and keep taking small steps to tackle the mountain. Then eventually the mountain moving Lord will enable you to move great mountains.