

Lord's day service message
7/7/2019

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

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. He did everything he could to heal his son. There was no medicine to cure the

son. There was no doctor who could heal the son. For that man, his son's incurable disease was a mountain.

One day he heard that Jesus' disciples could heal the sick like his son. So, he brought his son to Jesus' disciples and asked them to heal the son. But they were not able to heal him. The father got disappointed at the powerlessness of the disciples.

But the disappointment made the father bring the mountain to Jesus. 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 believers 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 the church for the rocks. With the money the church was able to 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 the disciples 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 tried to heal the sick boy as they had healed the other sick people. But this 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?”

Later, 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 had 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. God works through renewed and living faith.

Our faith must be renewed to be a living and working faith. How? By constantly praying to God and having fellowship with God. 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 small faith.

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 good news! We don't have to be giants in the faith to see our mountains moved. Even if we can't be a man of great faith like Samson, David or Daniel in the Bible, 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 to what we believe.

By speaking out to 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 become 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 we can't move, Jesus commands us to exercise our faith; "*Speak out to what you believe even if your faith is small.*"

As the Lord encourages us to do, we can speak out about our faith: "Lord I believe you are the conqueror of all mountains. I believe I can conquer all mountains with your power." 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 mountains.

It was a stormy night in Birmingham, England, and Hudson Taylor was to speak at a meeting at the Severn Street schoolroom. His hostess told him that nobody would attend on such a stormy night, but Taylor insisted on going. "I must go even if there is no one but the doorkeeper." Less than a dozen people showed up, but the meeting was marked with unusual spiritual power.

Half of those present either became missionaries or gave their children as missionaries; and the rest were faithful supporters of the China Inland Mission for years to come. In spite of the difficult circumstance and negative word of people, Hudson Taylor spoke out his faith in God who would do something out of nothing. And God moved the mountains short of missionaries and short of mission funds.

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

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