

Some Mountains Won't Move Until You Speak to Them

Bible Study Outline

Scripture Lesson

Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? 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, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you (St. Matthew 17:19–20 KJV).

- I. Introduction: Life is filled with mountains, and the terrain can be rough...
 - A. Mountains Manifest Before Us In Different Ways...
 1. Some rise before us as despair, depression, and dismay. Others take the shape of problems, mean people, and predicaments we never expected.
 2. Still others loom as physical illness, infirmity, and disease. We climb one mountain with weary legs and a grateful heart, only to reach the summit and discover a larger one waiting on the other side. We wonder how many more climbs we can survive.
 - B. Analysis of the Passage
 1. In Matthew 17, the disciples have encountered a need they could not meet. A father brought his suffering son, but they could not deliver him.
 2. After Jesus helped the boy, the disciples came to him privately with an honest question: ***“Why could not we cast him out?”***
 3. Jesus directed their attention to faith. He then pictured faith so small it could be compared to a mustard seed, yet able to say to a mountain, ***“Remove hence to yonder place.”***
 4. The Lord’s way of dealing with mountains is not limited to climbing them. He teaches his disciples to address them in faith. The power belongs to God; our part is to trust him and speak in agreement with his word.
 - C. Proposition: So what do we say to our mountains in order for them to move? Keep this in mind, when a mountain seems immovable, faith in Christ gives us a voice before it and courage to keep trusting God for what comes next.

II. SPEAK TRUTH TO YOUR MOUNTAINS

A. Principle:

1. Jesus begins with the disciples' faith, not the mountain's size. Faith does not pretend that your mountain is small. It tells the truth about the Lord whose throne sits over it.
2. The mustard seed points to the reality of faith rather than an impressive amount of it.

B. Application:

1. Name the mountain honestly, then answer it with the truth of God's character and promises.
2. Say, "This illness is real, but the Lord is my help." Say, "This trouble hurts, but it does not have the final word over my life." Bring fear into prayer rather than letting fear write your confession.

C. Question for reflection: What have you been saying about your mountain that needs to be answered by what God has said?

D. Biblical Passages:

1. **Proverbs 18:21** - "Death and life are in the power of the tongue: and they that love it shall eat the fruit thereof."
2. **Proverbs 12:18** - "There is that speaketh like the piercings of a sword: but the tongue of the wise is health."
3. **James 3:5** - "Even so the tongue is a little member, and boasteth great things. Behold, how great a matter a little fire kindleth!"

II. STAND FIRM BEFORE YOUR MOUNTAINS IN FAITH

A. Principle:

1. The disciples came to Jesus after a failure and heard his correction. They did not have to stay defeated.
2. Faith stands before a hard reality by returning to Christ and relying on him again. It can be small and still be genuine.
3. Keep this in mind, standing firm before your mountains is a speech that says "By faith I am still here!"

B. Application:

1. Do not surrender your trust because a first attempt failed or an answer has not yet appeared. Keep praying, take the wise steps available to you, receive help, and remain anchored in the Lord.
2. Standing firm does not mean refusing medical care or denying pain; it means refusing to let the mountain decide whether God is faithful.

C. Question for reflection: Where has disappointment made you step back when Christ is calling you to keep trusting him?

D. Biblical Passages:

1. **Isaiah 41:10** - "Fear thou not; for I am with thee: be not dismayed; for I am thy God: I will strengthen thee; yea, I will help thee; yea, I will uphold thee with the right hand of my righteousness."
2. **Mark 5:36** - "As soon as Jesus heard the word that was spoken, he saith unto the ruler of the synagogue, Be not afraid, only believe."
3. **2 Timothy 1:7** - "For God hath not given us the spirit of fear; but of power, and of love, and of a sound mind."

III. SAY WHAT YOU WILL SOON SEE TO YOUR MOUNTAINS

A. Principle:

1. Jesus gives faith a voice: “ye shall say.” We speak to the mountain as people who believe God is able to act.
2. Our words do not command God or guarantee the timetable or form of his answer. They express confidence in his power and submission to his will.

B. Application:

1. Speak a prayer shaped by Scripture and hope: “Lord, make a way through what I cannot move. Bring healing, provide what is needed, change what must change, and give me strength to follow you.”
2. Expect God to work; remain open to the way he chooses to answer.

C. Question for reflection: What faithful, specific prayer can you speak over the mountain you face today?

D. Biblical Passages:

1. **Romans 8:37** - “Nay, in all these things we are more than conquerors through him that loved us.”
2. **Philippians 4:13** - “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me.”
3. **1 John 5:4** - “For whatsoever is born of God overcometh the world: and this is the victory that overcometh the world, even our faith.”

V. Conclusion and Celebration

A. The disciples asked, “Why could not we?” Jesus turned their eyes from their inability to the possibility of faith in him. That is our testimony too. The mountain may have worn us down, but it has not worn out the power of God. When he moves what we could never move, our response is not to congratulate ourselves for saying the right words. We give him thanks. We tell the truth about his mercy. We let our praise become a witness for somebody still standing at the foot of a mountain.

And while we wait, we can praise him for grace that holds us steady. If he moves the mountain, thank him for the opening. If he leads us through it, thank him for his presence. Either way, the glory belongs to the Lord. Some mountains will not move until we speak to them in faith. So let the church speak, let the church trust, and let the church give God the glory!

B. Guided Prayer Moment

Invite everyone to sit quietly and identify one personal mountain. Allow a brief silence. Then say: "In your own words, name that mountain before the Lord. Speak the truth of God's power and care over it. Ask him to move it, make a way through it, and strengthen your faith as you wait. You may pray aloud softly or silently."

Closing prayer: "Lord Jesus, you know every mountain represented here tonight. Forgive our unbelief and grow our faith. We bring you our illness, grief, fear, strained relationships, and unanswered questions. Move what stands in the way according to your will. Give us courage for each step, wisdom to receive help, and grace to trust you while we wait. When the way opens, let our praise point back to you. In Jesus' name, amen!"