

Learning to Move Mountains

Opening Text: Matthew 17:14-20; 21:21-22

What we can know about Jesus, is revealed in passages like this. These passages exist so that we know Who Jesus really is. When we lose sight of Who He is, we pray ineffective prayers. However, a biblical revelation of Jesus will impact the way we pray, and our prayers will be effective and avail much!

In the account found in the gospel of Mark, the man who brought his son to Jesus said:

...if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.” (Mark 9:22-23)

The man only said, “*if you can do anything*” because, he didn’t know Jesus yet. He didn’t have access to all these stories that we have in our Bibles that reveal Who He is. Because we know Him, we don’t pray like that. We know that He can indeed do anything!

1. Jesus is always available to undo our struggle with the ‘impossible’

“*Bring him here to Me*” – Jesus is always available to deal with those things that are impossible with us.

In fact, Jesus came to violate the impossible and the unthinkable at every turn. He operated at a level that no mortal had ever seen. Each day of His life was full of miraculous events that contradicted natural laws and were truly mind-blowing.

He did that to

- help us venture beyond the realm of our natural human expectations,
- to help us see past those things that are part of our natural human experience and finally,
- to create within us the vision, the mindset, that accepts without reservation what God can do.

Being the Son of God, as He was, He probably couldn’t have come any other way: He would have been discredited if His credentials had been anything less than supernatural!

Acts 2:22 - Men of Israel, hear these words: Jesus of Nazareth, a Man attested by God to you by miracles, wonders, and signs which God did through Him in your midst, as you yourselves also know

2. Jesus always extended an invitation to His followers to live as supernaturally as He did.

V.20 ... “*assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*”

That Jesus walked in such power is outstanding, after all He was the Son of God. What I find amazing is that He said to His followers that they too, could enter the kinds of exploits that He did!

He also said in **John 14:12** – *“Most assuredly, I say to you, he who believes in Me, the works that I do he will do also; and greater works than these he will do, because I go to My Father.*

3. Jesus always let His followers in, on the secret to that kind of life

In fact, it is not even a secret: it is repeated throughout all the accounts of Jesus, through the New Testament and in fact the whole Bible. The key to moving mountains and access the possibilities of God is simply, **faith**.

It is clear from this passage that unbelief prevented the disciples from curing the young man. You cannot confront the impossible outside complete trust and reliance in God.

Jesus let them in on the secret to defeating the impossible: faith!

V.20: *So Jesus said to them, “Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.*

Unbelief and scepticism will never produce the supernatural.

Mark 9:22-23...*if You can do anything, have compassion on us and help us.” Jesus said to him, “If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes.”*

The issue is never *IF* Jesus can do something, the issue is *IF* we can believe.

A few concluding thoughts

- a) The statements that Jesus made about mountains being moved by faith etc are amazing. I believe that they must have shocked people who heard it for the first time. No one had ever said such things. Yet, they were all true and a clear invitation from Jesus to His followers to live as supernaturally as He did.

God’s invitations even in the Old Testament must have sounded just as unusual, outrageous even! For instance, look at this one in

Isaiah 55:1- *“Ho! Everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you who have no money, come, buy and eat. Yes, come, buy wine and milk without money and without price.*

Buy without money? That is such a strange statement. How can you purchase without the exchange of some currency? How can you buy outside the financial system where money is involved?

How can you acquire something, pay for it, but ... not with money?

God teaches us here that there are things money can't buy but faith can!

That is a totally different system that we need to learn to operate in. You can't learn it in school. We learn it from Jesus. We learn to make transactions with heaven, where currency is simply a surrendered belief that Jesus is Who the Bible says He is, and He does what the Bible says He does!

b) **2 Peter 1:3-4** - *as His divine power has given to us **all things** that pertain to life and godliness, through the knowledge of Him who called us by glory and virtue, ⁴ by which have been given to us **exceedingly great and precious promises**, that through these you may be partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*

We cannot think or live our lives as if Jesus added nothing to our existence, other than heaven, as if there was nothing he could offer us in this world, a world so filled with impossibilities.

1 Corinthians 3:21b-22 says, ... *“For all things are yours: ²² whether Paul or Apollos or Cephas, or the world or life or death, or things present or things to come— all are yours.*

The Bible says that He gave us all things that have to do with life and that He gave us promises – and they are not empty promises. They are exceeding great and precious. They are of high value and substance. They are to be highly regarded and believed!

1 John 5:4 – *Whatever is born of God overcomes this world, and this is the victory that overcomes this world: our faith.*

The secret is out: the secret to moving mountains is faith in Jesus!