

Praying Mountains Out of the Way

Mark 11:12-25

The temple incident is sandwiched between the beginning and end of the fig tree incident, so they're all connected

What?

Faith can pray mountains away

"May Your Kingdom come"—

The fig tree represents Israel, who outwardly had leaves, but produced no fruit

Jesus cursed the tree as a symbolic action representing God's judgment

The temple incident wasn't Jesus cleansing the temple, but picturing its destruction

The temple had not become a house of prayer for the nations, but a centre of legalistic power and greed

The final state of the tree was death, as would be the case for unbelieving Israel spiritually

The cursing of the fig tree and Jesus' wrath and destruction in the temple represented the removing of the place of prayer, because it had become an obstacle to faith, fulfilled in AD 70

Verses 22-25, then, describe a new way of praying, not dependent on the temple, but going to God directly in faith

Jesus promised the disciples that they too would remove mountainous obstacles standing in the way of the gospel

The Big Question—What is mustard-seed faith?

The disciples asked Jesus why they couldn't cast out a demon

Matthew 17:20, ESV—He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from

here to there,' and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you."

"Little faith" refers to faith mixed with doubt or with self-confidence, or that's lacking

Mustard seed faith is small but growing; it is small, but it's object is a very big God

So What?

As we pray for God to enlarge the kingdom through us, we can be sure even impossible obstacles can be removed by faith

Whatever we ask for kingdom work, God will give

Verse 23 is given to individuals, while verse 24 is given to the disciples as a group

Do we want to see God's hand in our ministries? Is there a huge obstacle in the way? Both individual and corporate prayer are necessary

Also, there are conditions—not doubting, but believing as if it is already done; not holding unforgiveness, but forgiving

Corporate prayer must happen with unity

Prayer is not trying to bend God's will, but asking God to accomplish His will specifically in our lives

The final say—John

I John 5:14-15, ESV—And this is the confidence that we have toward him, that if we ask anything according to his will he hears us. And if we know that he hears us in whatever we ask, we know that we have the requests that we have asked of him

Now What?

Faith can pray mountains away

Pray, "Lord, help my unbelief"

Dare to pray a mountainous obstacle away