



MOVING MOUNTAINS



PREVIEW

When Israel went out of Egypt, the house of Jacob from a people of strange language, Judah became His sanctuary, and Israel His dominion. The sea saw it and fled; Jordan turned back. The mountains skipped like rams, the little hills like lambs. What ails you, O sea, that you fled? O Jordan, that you turned back? O mountains, that you skipped like rams? O little hills, like lambs? Tremble, O earth, at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, who turned the rock into a pool of water, the flint into a fountain of waters. (Psalm 114:1-8, NKJV)

We see in Psalm 114 that God moves mountains and hills as easily as rams and lambs kicking up their heels. God is in the business of moving mountains. Matthew 17:20 also refers to the moving of mountains: "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."

PRAISE

Have you ever seen how small a mustard seed is? Have you ever noticed how enormous a mountain is? If you haven't, then the only logical thing to do is google them. What are the differences between these two objects? (List them on a piece of paper.)

PARABLE

One day a teacher and his student were hiking through the woods and came across a small sapling. The teacher suggested, "Try pulling that sapling out of the ground." With ease, the student uprooted the young tree. They kept walking and came across a slightly larger tree. Once again the teacher said, "Try pulling that young tree out of the ground." The student did as the teacher asked, but this time with a little more difficulty. They kept walking and came across a large tree, much older than the past two. Once again, the teacher instructed, "Try pulling this tree out of the ground." With a puzzled look on his face, the student responded, "But that would be impossible."

Moral of the story: Habits that are short-lived are much easier to change/stop (uproot) than old habits that have been around a long time.

PRESENT

Ask the students to raise their hands if they have ever been through a difficult time in their lives. Some may have lost a loved one, be suffering from an illness, or going through financial hardships in their family. Whatever it may be, we all have "mountain moments" in our lives that look impossible to overcome. Here is a little secret: you might be doing the right things and living a just life but still going through a storm. The question is, what do you do when hard times hit? Do you stop whatever you're doing and hide? It is interesting that you learn more by going through difficulties and pain than you do from living a pain-free, perfect life. Pain is an effective

teacher. Want to know why elders have so much wisdom? They have been through the storms, sicknesses, and hardships. Don't curse the pain, because it's letting you know you're still living and growing.

Want to see how powerful faith is? Look at Matthew 17:20: "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." Imagine holding a cupful of mustard-seed faith. That's all it takes to overcome life's problems. With just that small amount of faith you can speak to those problems and move them out of the way.

Let's refer back to the list we created on the difference between a mountain and a mustard seed. One clear characteristic stands out—the difference in size. When you see a mountain, it's so huge you can't see the whole thing at once, but you can barely hold on to one mustard seed because it's so tiny.

Mountains seem so big when they're right in front of you. They block the view; you can't see your future; you have no idea how the problem is going to turn out. But God can see what's on the other side of the mountain, and His Word encourages you to speak to that mountain and move it out of the way. If you're afraid to speak words by faith, if you doubt anything good can come out of the situation, it's the same as letting the mountain take your voice away.

PRACTICE

But today we are going to speak to our mountains. (Have everyone say, "Move.") Refer back to the list of differences you created between the mountain and the mustard seed. Notice that no one listed "growth potential" in the mustard seed column. The mountain is what it is, but the mustard seed has great growth potential. That seed will grow into a mustard plant that will produce more seeds that will grow into more mustard plants.

PRAY

God, please help me to realize the potential of my faith and help me not to be intimidated by the mountains in my life. Give me enough confidence to speak to my problems and issues, and they will be removed.

PLUS

Remember you may not think you have much faith, but the growth potential of your faith is limitless, just like the mustard seed.