



CHAPTER 11

Faith That Moves Mountains

THE WHY?

Fig trees often used as an EMBLEM of the JEWISH NATION.

Trouble was, though this particular fig tree had plenty of LEAVES, when Jesus took a closer look, he could find NO FRUIT at all.

- * Prophetic parallel = Though very religious OUTWARDLY with all the sacrifices and ceremonies, Israel was spiritually BARREN and neck deep in SIN.
- * So, Jesus CLEANSED the TEMPLE and CURSED the FIG TREE as a sign of coming JUDGMENT.

THE HOW?

- * BELIEVING and SPEAKING are twins / partners in the operation of FAITH and we must be STRONG in BOTH.
- * Note the TENSES in v24: You are believing in the PRESENT for promises spoken in the PAST.
- * GRACE has already PROVIDED; now FAITH RECEIVES.
→ *Which are you stronger in, believing or speaking? If you stumble, in which of the two does it tend to be?*
→ *Why was it so important that Jesus kept teaching his followers the 'ways of faith?' Does that way come naturally to us? If Jesus is trying to get us to follow that way, what 'way' is the world / our enemy trying to get us to follow?*

SUMMARY: Mountain-moving faith is released by WORDS from a BELIEVING HEART.

→ *What is a 'believing heart?' How do you get one? What is the opposite of a believing heart and how do you get one of those? Do you have a believing heart?*

PRINCIPLE: In the faith realm, you SPEAK TO your mountain.

→ *"To an extent at least, the words you are speaking over your life are prophesying your future!" Discuss!*
→ *Speaking words is like sowing seed; you reap what you sow. (Gal 6:7-8, Prov 18:21) Do you ever / are you in the habit of sowing the wrong type of seed? Be honest! What negative fruit does that produce? How might you change the seed you habitually sow?*

PREMISE: Christians talk an awful lot ABOUT their problems, when scripture teaches power is released when we speak TO our problems.

→ *How true is this for you? What is your first instinct when you come face to face with a mountain? How long does it take you to pray? Do you tend to do a whole lot of grumbling, complaining and worrying first?*

- * Stop telling EVERYONE how BIG your MOUNTAIN is; start telling your MOUNTAIN how BIG your GOD is.

- * Talking ABOUT it, MAGNIFIES it. Talking TO it has the power to DISEMPOWER and REMOVE it.

→ *"All day long, whether we realise it or not, we are speaking either life or death, blessing or cursing, wisdom or foolishness, love or hate, peace or poison, and reaping the inevitable consequences." Discuss!*

PRINCIPLE: Too often we GIVE POWER to the enemy's negative, suggestive thought-seeds, by ENTERTAINING them in our MINDS and then RELEASING them out of our MOUTHS. (Prov 18:21) ... By doing so you're giving power to the WRONG THING.

- * DANGER = When faced with your mountain, all sorts of UNBELIEF, DOUBT, INSECURITY come out.
→ *"When you talk ABOUT your mountain you are placing your faith in your own feelings and anxieties, and even the devil's lies, rather than in God, His Word and His promises. Are you, in essence, helping the enemy advance his agenda, rather than agreeing with God and advancing His?" Discuss!*

THE POSITIVE FLIP: What if rather than speaking ABOUT that mountain, we were to CHANGE our HABIT and start to speak TO the mountain?

→ *How could you change that habit? What habits has the world taught you? How? Why? What role has social media explosion played in all that?*

There is tremendous power when a man or woman of faith SPEAKS the WORD with authority from a BELIEVING HEART

- * If your mountain is WORRY, speak the Word to it (Ps 55:22, Phil 4:6-7, 4:19)
- * If your mountain is INSECURITY, speak the Word to it (Gal 4:4-7)
- * If your mountain is FEAR, speak the Word to it (2 Tim 1:7, Rom 8:31, Heb 11:5-6)
- * If your mountain is FEAR of FAILURE, speak the Word to it (Rom 8:37, 1 Cor 15:57, Phil 4:13).
- * If your mountain is SICKNESS, speak the Word to it (Matt 8:17, 1 Pet 2:24, Mal 4:2)
→ *What mountains are you currently facing? Or, what mountains do you repeatedly face? How might you speak the Word to that mountain? Perhaps your group can help you find the promises / verses to stand on?*

WRAP-UP

BELIEVING wrong? Time to get the Word INTO you.

SPEAKING wrong? Time to get the Word COMING OUT of you.

- * We need to UNLEARN talking ABOUT and RELEARN talking TO.
- * If you catch yourself talking ABOUT that mountain this week, press PAUSE and REBOOT.
→ *What needs to be unlearned and what needs to be relearned?*
→ *Since Sunday's message have you caught yourself talking ABOUT and corrected yourself? What difference has it made?*