**SERMON OUTLINE**

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| **SERMON TITLE:** | How to Remove Mountains |
| **SERMON REFERENCE:** | Matthew 17:1-8, 14-21 |
| **LWF SERMON NUMBER:** | #1847 |
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1. INTRODUCTION
   1. Many people have difficulties.
      1. They have mountains of heartache, debt, despair, or satanic opposition.
      2. What will they do with these mountains that are facing them?
   2. Today’s message gives us a lesson in how to remove mountains.
   3. Matthew 17:1-2, 20
   4. Have you any rivers that seem to be uncrossable?
   5. Have you any mountains that you cannot tunnel through?
   6. God specializes in things that seem impossible.
      1. Matthew 17:20
         1. Why don’t we believe what God has said?
   7. Matthew 17 is a chapter of contrasts.
      1. We read of mountains and mustard seeds.
      2. We read of glory and despair.
   8. Jesus had gone up to an exceedingly high mountain, and He was transfigured.
      1. Matthew 17:1-2
      2. The word “transfigured” literally means that He was metamorphosized.
         1. This is the Greek word from which we get our English word “metamorphosis”.
            1. It means “a change of form”.

But not just a change of form; a change where that which is on the inside comes to the surface.

* + 1. The glory of God was in the Lord Jesus Christ.
       1. That glory burst forth on the Mount of Transfiguration.
  1. God starts with the inside and goes toward the outside.
     1. Satan just covers the outside because he has nothing on the inside.
  2. Satan knows how to masquerade, but Jesus was metamorphosized.
     1. The glory that was in Jesus came to the surface.
        1. The glory of our Lord was shone there on that mountaintop.
           1. Matthew 17:5
  3. Today’s message gives us three basic things as we look into this chapter about moving mountains.

1. the glory that we are to anticipate (matthew 16:27-28)
   1. The transfiguration was a preview of the greatest event this world will ever know: the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
   2. Matthew 16:27
      1. This is a promise from the Word of God.
      2. Jesus Christ is literally, actually, visibly, and bodily coming back to this Earth again.
         1. Jesus said it, and it will happen.
   3. Matthew 16:28
      1. Some people have thought that Jesus made a mistake because all of the apostles died, and Jesus had not yet come.
         1. But Jesus never makes a mistake.
      2. What Jesus was saying was, “I am going to give you (some of you who are now living) a preview of My coming in glory.”
         1. The transfiguration was a preview of the second coming of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
      3. There should be no division between chapters 16 and 17.
         1. The chapter divisions were put there after the Bible was written.
         2. Chapter 16 flows into chapter 17.
   4. Matthew 17:1
      1. “After six days…”
         1. Six is the number of man.
         2. There are 6,000 recorded years of human history.
            1. One day is with the Lord as a thousand years and a thousand years as one day.

2 Peter 3:8

* + - 1. The seventh day is the 1,000-year reign of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.
         1. There is coming a day:

When the desert will blossom as a rose.

Isaiah 35:1

When the lamb and the lion shall lie down together.

When the Earth shall be filled with the knowledge of the glory of the Lord as waters that cover the sea.

Habakkuk 2:14

* + - * 1. Jesus our Lord shall rule and reign here on this Earth.

Matthew 6:10

* + - 1. After six days of failure, then the Lord Jesus will appear.
  1. It is a dark hour.
     1. It is a dark hour domestically, internationally, and scientifically.
     2. For the first time in history, man is literally afraid of what he knows.
        1. His head and his hands have outrun his heart.
        2. We are creating the ability to destroy ourselves.
     3. And we are afraid because of what we don’t know.
        1. Strange, new diseases are bubbling up around the Earth.
     4. It is gloriously dark because our Lord is about to come.
  2. What some people think is the end is really the dawning of a new day.
     1. The seventh day is coming.
     2. Our Lord is going to come.
        1. He will rule and reign upon this Earth.
  3. Notice those who were involved on the day of the Lord Jesus’ transfiguration:
     1. There were three witnesses.
        1. Matthew 17:1
        2. Peter, James, and John represented the witnesses.
        3. Why did they see it?
           1. Because they were looking for it.
           2. Matthew 16:28

Jesus had told them, they were looking for it, and they saw it.

* + - * 1. We are looking for Jesus to come the second time.
      1. God took Peter, James, and John apart from the rest of the disciples.
         1. God doesn’t have favorites, but He has intimates.

He has those who are on the inside.

Amos 3:7

Spiritual men today are looking for Jesus to come at almost any moment.

* + 1. There were two participants.
       1. Matthew 17:3
          1. “Elias” is the New Testament way of saying “Elijah”.
       2. The Lord Jesus Christ was on the top of Mt. Hermon, and there appeared the following:
          1. Moses the great lawgiver
          2. Elijah the great prophet

The Lord Jesus was transfigured before them as they talked.

Matthew 17:2

* + - 1. Why Moses and Elijah?
         1. Moses gave the law.

Jesus fulfilled the law.

* + - * 1. Elijah was the prophet.

The prophet spoke of Jesus.

* + - 1. Moses and Elijah represent the two groups who will be involved when our Lord comes again in power and in great glory.
         1. Moses died and was buried.

Deuteronomy 34:5-6

* + - * 1. Elijah never died.

2 Kings 2:11

Elijah was caught up in a whirlwind in a chariot of fire.

He was raptured.

He was taken up to Heaven.

* + - * 1. 1 Corinthians 15:51-52

In this passage, the Apostle Paul shares what will take place when Jesus comes.

“We shall not all sleep” means that not everyone will die.

There is the Moses crowd.

“*The dead shall be raised incorruptible*.”

There is the Elijah crowd.

“And we shall be changed.”

* + - * 1. If Jesus Christ were to come today, all of the dead saints would be raised like Moses; all of the living saints would be changed in a moment, in the twinkling of an eye.

These are the two groups that will be present with our Lord when He comes to receive His own.

* + - * 1. 1 Corinthians 15:54-55

The Elijah crowd will say, “*O death, where is your sting*?”

The Moses crowd will say, “*O grave, where is your victory*?”

* + 1. There is only one Savior; His name is Jesus.
       1. Matthew 17:4-8
          1. “*A bright cloud overshadowed them*.”

This was the Shekinah glory of God.

* + - 1. If we want to know what everything is all about, then we can get it in two words: Jesus only.
      2. If we want to know what God is up to, it is this: Jesus only.
         1. It is true in creation.

It was made by Him and for Him.

John 1:3

What is the world coming to?

It is coming to Jesus.

What is the purpose of creation?

Jesus only.

* + - * 1. It is true in redemption.

We are saved not by a program, not by a plan, but by a person.

Jesus only.

* + - * 1. It is true in the Bible.

Do you want to understand the Bible?

Do you want to know what the Bible is all about?

We can put it in two words: Jesus only.

It is a “Him” book.

We have to read the Bible in the light of Christ and see Christ in the light of the Bible.

* + - * 1. It is true in prophecy.

Jesus is the spirit of prophecy.

Prophecy is not about a happening; it is about a person.

It is about the Lord Jesus.

We are not waiting for something to happen but for someone to come.

What is the key to prophecy?

Jesus only.

* + - * 1. It is true in the church.

John 12:32

What is the purpose of the church?

It is Jesus only.

Jesus said, “*I will build My church*.”

Matthew 16:18

He didn’t say, “You will build My church,” or “I will build your church.”

* + - * 1. John 12:32

1. the grief we must alleviate (matthew 17:14-20)
   1. Matthew 17:14-18
   2. Jesus came down from the Mount of Transfiguration to the place of misery.
      1. In that valley, there was satanic power.
         1. There was a boy who was demon-possessed.
      2. In that valley, there was sickness, sorrow, and despair.
      3. In that valley, there was a father with a crushed and bleeding heart.
         1. He had come up against a mountain of difficulty.
      4. In that valley, there were some preachers, and they had no power.
         1. They had gone through the ministerial function.
            1. They had rebuked the devil.
            2. They had shouted.
            3. They had prayed.
            4. They had gone through their form and ritual, but nothing had changed.
   3. Jesus came, and He spoke.
      1. There was no struggle, no groaning, and no long battle.
      2. Satan released his grip on this boy.
      3. The boy was healed.
      4. The father, whose heart had been crushed, looked into the face of Jesus.
         1. He began to give God praise for the victory.
   4. Matthew 17:19-20
      1. “Apart” here means that they had to get Jesus off in a corner.
         1. They were ashamed to ask in public.
      2. What mountain was Jesus talking about?
         1. He was talking about the mountain He had just been on.
2. the gift we must appropriate (matthew 17:19-21)
   1. Faith is the gift that we must appropriate.
      1. We move mountains with faith.
   2. What kind of faith?
      1. Matthew 17:20
      2. Faith as a grain of mustard seed.
   3. The problem with today’s church is a lack of mountain-moving faith.
      1. It is a problem in our hearts and in our lives when it is not there.
      2. We have never really learned how to believe God.
   4. Why did our Lord say that faith is like a grain of mustard seed?
      1. The smallness of the seed
         1. Our Lord was not putting a premium upon small faith.
            1. Our Lord loves great faith.
         2. The least amount of faith is greater than the greatest amount of difficulty.
            1. He was comparing a mustard seed to a mountain.
            2. This is a David-and-Goliath experience in the spirit.

A mustard seed went to battle against a mountain and slew it.

* + - 1. Matthew 17:20
    1. The secret of the seed
       1. No one can manufacture a mustard seed.
          1. Given enough time, they can make a mountain; but they cannot make a seed.

Bulldozers can mound up a mountain, but you cannot manufacture or synthesize a seed.

* + - 1. A seed has one ingredient that is absolutely necessary.
         1. A seed has life.
      2. Faith is supernatural; faith is not positive thinking.
         1. Faith is not desiring something and then believing that you can name it and claim it.

You can’t claim it until God names it.

* + - * 1. Faith is the supernatural gift of God.
    1. The source of the seed
       1. Only God can make a seed.
          1. We read about that in Genesis.
       2. Life comes from God, and faith comes from God.
          1. Romans 10:17
       3. The Word of God is called a seed.
       4. You have to open your hand and let the Lord put that seed in your hand because you cannot work it up.
    2. The sowing of the seed
       1. A seed is to be planted.
       2. Faith is the gift of God, but God will not believe for us.
          1. God gives us faith, but we must believe.
       3. We must take the seed of faith, and put it in the ground because there is life in that seed.
          1. Out of that seed comes life and more seeds.
          2. If we take that little seed of faith and put it in the dust of despair, then out of that seed of faith will bloom the flowers and fruits of God’s grace and God’s glory.
       4. When our Lord said to remove this mountain, He was not talking literally but figuratively.
          1. It would not have done the man, who had a demon-possessed boy, any good to move that mountain.
          2. What was up on that mountain?

The glory of God was on the mountaintop.

* + - * 1. What was down in the valley?

Despair and heartache were in the valley.

* + - * 1. Jesus was saying to get rid of the mountain and remove the span between Heaven and Earth.

Get the power of God that is on the mountaintop down in the valley.

Get the mountain out from in-between.

* + - * 1. Most of us don’t have this kind of faith.

Matthew 17:19-21

They believed in Jesus, in a sense, but they were unbelieving believers.

Why do we have such little faith?

Very simply, we are not very serious about this matter.

God does business with those who mean business.

* + - 1. Can we believe for other people?
         1. The father believed for his son.

Mark 9:17-29

The father had the faith of a mustard seed.

He didn’t have big faith; he just had little faith.

But our Lord took the faith that he had and used it.

* + - 1. We don’t have to have perfect faith.
         1. It’s not great faith in God that we need.
         2. It’s faith in a great God that we need.
      2. If we have faith like a grain of mustard seed and plant it and begin to believe God and trust God, then we will see mountains of hate, despair, difficulty, disease, deprivation, and demonism flee away.

1. CONCLUSION
   1. There is the glory that we anticipate.
      1. Jesus is coming.
   2. There is the grief that we must alleviate.
      1. A world is in the grip of Satan.
   3. There is the gift that we must appropriate.
      1. It is faith.
   4. Have you any rivers that seem to be uncrossable?
   5. Have you any mountains that you cannot tunnel through?
   6. God specializes in things that seem impossible.
      1. He knows a thousand ways to make a way for you.
      2. There is no person God cannot save.
      3. There is no disease God cannot heal.
      4. There is no problem God cannot solve.
      5. There is no promise God cannot keep.
      6. What a mighty God we serve!
   7. Do you know Jesus personally? If not, you can pray to Him today by asking Him to come into your life.
   8. Call upon Jesus today. Repent (turn) from your sins, and turn to Jesus. Ask Him to forgive you of your sins, and acknowledge Him as Lord of your life.
      1. Romans 3:23
      2. Romans 10:9-10
      3. Romans 10:13
      4. Acts 16:31
      5. John 3:16