

Series: Standing on the Promises of God

NOTHING SHALL BE IMPOSSIBLE

UNTO YOU

MATTHEW 17 & LUKE 9

Text: Matthew 17:20

Matthew 17:20

*²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, 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.***

Introduction:

When I was a younger the church that I attended, we used to sing a chorus. Maybe you remember it. "Have you any rivers that seem to be un-crossable? Have you any mountains you cannot tunnel through? God specializes in things that seem impossible. He knows a thousand ways to make a way for you."

There may be some people here today who have some difficulties; I mean, some mountains: mountains of heartache, mountains of debt, mountains of despair, and mountains of satanic opposition. And you say, "O God, what am I going to do with this mountain that is facing me?"

Note again these verses and in Luke 9:

Matthew 17:1-2

¹ And after six days Jesus taketh Peter, James, and John his brother, and bringeth them up into an high mountain apart, ² And was transfigured before them: and his face did shine as the sun, and his raiment was white as the light.

These disciples has seen something amazing with the Lord there on the mountain, and the next day they are met by a crowd of people.

It was there on that mountain that the Lord went to pray.

While He prayed the Bible tells us that his countenance was changed or altered.

Luke 9:28-29

²⁸ And it came to pass about an eight days after these sayings, he took Peter and John and James, and went up into a mountain to pray. ²⁹ And as he prayed, the fashion of his countenance was altered, and his raiment was white and glistering.

There is a great lesson in this for us. I think that we are looking for great change to take place; we try to manufacture it and figure out some formula to bring it

about but the truth is as you pray God Himself changes us into His image.

Here they are on the mountain.

Let me ask a question.

How many here have ever said something really dumb that you have regretted?

Well Peter said something really dumb.

Now we pick on Peter a lot, but the truth is I have said a lot worse things than Peter said.

Peter got so excited about what had happened note what he said:

Luke 9:33

³³ And it came to pass, as they departed from him, Peter said unto Jesus, Master, it is good for us to be here: and let us make three tabernacles; one for thee, and one for Moses, and one for Elias: not knowing what he said.

It's probably a good practice if you don't know what you're saying – stop talking.

Peter said this is a wonderful place to be Lord – let's build three tents, at least he put the Lord first on the

list, and didn't ask for one for himself, one for You, one for Moses, and one for Elijah, and lets just stay right here on this mountain.

And then the cloud comes.

Luke 9:34-35

³⁴ While he thus spake, there came a cloud, and overshadowed them: and they feared as they entered into the cloud. ³⁵ And there came a voice out of the cloud, saying, This is my beloved Son: hear him.

By the way sometimes God has to send the cloud so that we see no one but Him.

Sometime in the midst of the greatest blessings a cloud seems to descend and we begin to think, "Lord what's wrong?"

It's not that something is wrong but it's because we have our eyes on the wrong thing or people.

The only one on that mountain that really mattered was the Lord because it was the Lord that was going to go with them in the valley in just a moment.

The truth is; we like Peter would all like to stay on the mountain with the Lord instead of traveling down into the valley.

Luke 9:37

³⁷ And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

Note those words “the next day.”

Remember there is always a next day.

We could have the greatest most God blessed meeting in the history of Temple Baptist Church on the Lord’s Day but there will be a Monday.

There will always be a next day.

You could have the most perfect week that you could ever imagine, everything is going as well as you could desire, and then there is the next day.

We all like to go up onto the mountain. But you can be certain of this; you will always come down from that hill.

There are some lessons that we must learn in the low lands of life.

I think that I enjoy the lessons the Lord teaches me on the mountain more so than the lesson in the valley.

The Lord taught many things on the mountain.

His most famous message was the Sermon on the Mount.

He gave the famous Olivet Discourse from the Mount of Olives.

He often took His disciples up into a mountain to pray.

But there are some lessons that cannot be learned on the mountain, but can only be learned in the valley.

I'm reminded of the words of the hymn "Follow On"

Each verse begins with these words, "Down in the valley."

Note again:

Luke 9:37-39

³⁷ And it came to pass, that on the next day, when they were come down from the hill, much people met him.

³⁸ And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. ³⁹ And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him.

Note:

1. WE ARE TO EXTEND GOD'S LOVE TO OTHER HURTING PEOPLE

As long as we are living up on the mountain just basking in the glow, enjoying the love of God for ourselves, we've missed the point of why God lets us live.

God keeps us on this planet to allow the world to see His love.

What Peter didn't know when he said let's just stay here on this mountain, the Lord knew that in that valley there were much people.

Note:

- A Multitude (Much People)

We are living in a world with much people who need to see and know that God loves them and made it possible for them to have their sins forgiven and be reconciled back to Himself.

Seven billion people who have never had the opportunity to go up on that mountain with the Lord, and who need the Lord.

Not only do we see the multitude but we note also here in this valley:

- A Man

This man had a son that the Devil had possessed.

Note his words:

Luke 9:38-39

³⁸ And, behold, a man of the company cried out, saying, Master, I beseech thee, look upon my son: for he is mine only child. ³⁹ And, lo, a spirit taketh him, and he suddenly crieth out; and it teareth him that he foameth again, and bruising him hardly departeth from him.

Matthew 17:14-21

¹⁴ And when they were come to the multitude, there came to him a certain man, kneeling down to him, and saying, ¹⁵ Lord, have mercy on my son: for he is lunatick, and sore vexed: for oftentimes he falleth into the fire, and oft into the water. ¹⁶ And I brought him to thy disciples, and they could not cure him. ¹⁷ Then Jesus answered and said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him hither to me. ¹⁸ And Jesus rebuked the devil; and he departed out of him: and the child was cured from that very hour. ¹⁹ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰ And Jesus said unto them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, 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.

²¹ Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

Put yourself in this man's place.

His only son was being controlled and injured by a demon bruising him hardly, causing him to fall into the fire and into the water to drown him.

There is no innocent look on this little boys face because this little boy is bound by the Devil.

This is a picture of every family that does not know Christ; every mom and dad trying to figure out how to raise their children without the Lord.

Certainly they all are not demon possessed, but they are all in the sight of the Devil.

It's here in the valley that the multitudes and individuals need to know the Lord.

Sadly we are so selfish that when we find ourselves in the valleys of life we think it's all about us but it could be that the Lord has us there for someone like this man.

Have you ever considered that when you have to go to the hospital that God may have you there for someone else?

Have you ever thought that you lost one job so that God could place you in another part of His harvest that needed a witness for Jesus Christ?

Note:

2 Corinthians 1:4

⁴ Who comforteth us in all our tribulation, that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God.

In the valleys there are a lot of divine intersections and appointment.

Not only do we need to learn the lesson that “We Are To Extend God’s Love To Other Hurting People” but also:

2. TO EXPECT SPIRITUAL OPPOSITION

We must expect it. This took place following that great time they had on the mountain.

Note:

Luke 9:40-41

⁴⁰ And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not. ⁴¹ And Jesus answering said, O faithless and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.

We see the compassion of the Lord here.

The Lord says “Bring thy son hither.”

Note:

Luke 9:42

⁴² And as he was yet a coming, the devil threw him down, and tare him. And Jesus rebuked the unclean spirit, and healed the child, and delivered him again to his father.

Remember the Devil is always seeking to tear men down and the Lord always wants to build men up.

The Devil preys on families and our young people.

Not only do we need to learn the lesson that “We Are To Extend God’s Love To Other Hurting People” and we are “To Expect Spiritual Opposition” but also:

3. WE MUST EXERCISE FAITH EVERY DAY

Luke 9:40

⁴⁰ And I besought thy disciples to cast him out; and they could not.

The disciples wanted to help this man and his son but the bible says they could not and we are told why.

Note:

Luke 9:41

*⁴¹ And Jesus answering said, **O faithless** and perverse generation, how long shall I be with you, and suffer you? Bring thy son hither.*

You say was he talking to the dad?

No because the dad had enough faith to bring him to the Lord, so he had to be talking to the disciples.

What we want to do is to preach on the words lack of faith.

What about our lack of faith?

Who is the faithless and perverse generation?

So often we want to preach on the second part of this phrase and not the first.

We want to preach on the perverse generation.

You know why they are perverse; because they are faithless.

You know what church going people's great sin is?

We don't believe God like we ought to believe God.

It's easy to believe Him when we are up on the mountain and we are beholding His glory, but that's not faith that's sight.

When we can see it all happening, when we can see the blessings, when we can see and understand what God is doing, when we enjoy His presence, and we think that we are really living by faith, but we are living by faith when we get down into the valley, the clouds have settled in, the Devil is fighting, and things aren't going like we thought they should be going, and we're wondering where God is, it is at the moment that we must have faith in God!

The great temptation in the valley is to get our eyes on our self and other people, but we must keep our eyes on the Lord.

Remember yesterday's faith won't get the job done either.

Note:

Luke 9:1-10

¹ Then he called his twelve disciples together, and gave them power and authority over all devils, and to cure diseases. ² And he sent them to preach the kingdom of God, and to heal the sick. ³ And he said unto them, Take nothing for your journey, neither staves, nor scrip, neither bread, neither money; neither have two coats apiece. ⁴ And whatsoever house ye enter into, there abide, and thence depart. ⁵ And whosoever will not receive you, when ye go out of that city, shake off the very dust from your feet for a testimony against them.

*⁶ **And they departed, and went through the towns, preaching the gospel, and healing every where.** ⁷ Now Herod the tetrarch heard of all that was done by him: and he was perplexed, because that it was said of some, that John was risen from the dead; ⁸ And of some, that Elias had appeared; and of others, that one of the old prophets was risen again. ⁹ And Herod said, John have I beheaded: but who is this, of whom I hear such things? And he desired to see him. ¹⁰ And the apostles, **when they were returned, told him all that***

they had done. *And he took them, and went aside privately into a desert place belonging to the city called Bethsaida.*

And now these same disciples are powerless to cast one demon out of this little boy.

Why?

Because yesterday's faith will not get you through today's valleys.

We have got to look to the Lord each day acknowledging that we are weak and I don't know what You are doing and the Devil is giving me fits – but I believe.

Note:

Mark 9:17-24

¹⁷ And one of the multitude answered and said, Master, I have brought unto thee my son, which hath a dumb spirit; ¹⁸ And wheresoever he taketh him, he teareth him: and he foameth, and gnasheth with his teeth, and pineth away: and I spake to thy disciples that they should cast him out; and they could not. ¹⁹ He answereth him, and saith, O faithless generation, how long shall I be with you? how long shall I suffer you? bring him unto me. ²⁰ And they brought him unto him: and when he saw him, straightway the spirit tare him;

and he fell on the ground, and wallowed foaming.

*²¹ And he asked his father, How long is it ago since this came unto him? And he said, Of a child. ²² And oftentimes it hath cast him into the fire, and into the waters, to destroy him: but **if thou canst do any thing**, have compassion on us, and help us. ²³ Jesus said unto him, **If thou canst believe**, all things are possible to him that believeth. ²⁴ And straightway the father of the child cried out, and said with tears, **Lord, I believe; help thou mine unbelief.***

I love the answer of this man and his honesty – Lord I believe help thou mine unbelief.

Close:

It would seem to me that the Lord was connecting our faith life with our prayer life.

When this story started the Lord was on the mountain to pray.

Note Matthew's account of this same story.

The Lord expanded on the reason that the disciples were not able to help this man and his son.

Matthew 17:19-21

¹⁹ Then came the disciples to Jesus apart, and said, Why could not we cast him out? ²⁰ And Jesus said unto

them, Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, 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. ²¹ Howbeit this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting.

You faith life can be measured by your prayer life.

It's in the valley that we learn to exercise faith.

It's interesting to me what we see in Psalms.

In Psalms 22 we have a picture of Mount Calvary, and in Psalms 24 we see Mount Zion but between these two mountains in Psalms 23 we see the valley of the shadow of death.

The only way to get from one mountain to the next is through the valley.

In the valley we are going to learn to die so that we might live and in the valley we will find the He is the lily of the valley.

We all desire the mountain experience but it's the valley that we learn the great lesson in the valley is that

I'm nothing and without Him we can do nothing.