



NO MOUNTAINS TOO BIG

One day, His disciples asked Jesus why they could not cast a demon from a boy. Jesus told them, *"Your faith is too small. I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."* (Matt. 17:20) What was Jesus teaching His disciples in this instance? Was He telling them that their faith was smaller than a mustard seed?

Jesus stated that with a faith the size of a mustard seed they could move mountains. Since they could not make a demonic spirit move out, then their faith must have been smaller than a mustard seed. Many of us have the impression that this was what the Lord was teaching His disciples. We think that faith is a matter of size. When faith reaches a certain quantity, then you can make things happen. When good things don't happen, then we think that we don't enough faith, and we need to increase our faith. Is this what Jesus meant?

Christ also taught that the Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed that is planted by a man in a field (Matt. 13:31-32). Although it is the smallest seed of all seeds, when it grows it becomes as big as a tree. I don't know about you, but I have never seen a mustard plant that is as big as a tree. So, Jesus must not have been talking about a regular mustard plant. I believe that He was speaking about a spiritual principle that is true in the Kingdom of Heaven. He was not talking about the mustard seed or its size (the smallest seed); He was teaching about the kind of faith that can move mountains. The faith (the mustard seed) that can access the Kingdom of Heaven has to be planted by the King Himself. This kind of faith naturally keeps growing because it draws its life from the soil of the Kingdom. Because of its very nature – being a Kingdom seed – its size does not really matter. What matters most is the seed is planted on Kingdom soil. When you have this kind of faith, you are linked to the Kingdom of Heaven. Therefore, all the power and authority of the King is with you. And when you speak with Kingdom authority, mountains have to obey.

Are you facing some mountains today? Do you feel that your faith is too small? You need to understand that what matters most is not the quantity but the nature of your faith. Your faith must be continually linked to the heavenly realm. It must not be based on what you perceive naturally in the physical realm. We do not solve our problems by focusing on the resources that we see and touch. In the midst of our impossible circumstances, we must access by faith the heavenly realm. We move mountains in the eternal realm, where nothing is impossible.

One of my favorite faith heroes of the Bible is Caleb. The older I get, the more admirable Caleb's faith becomes. He was one of the twelve spies that explored Canaan when the Israelites first reach its borders. Ten spies reported back what they saw and fear and retreat was their answer for Israel. Caleb and Joshua saw the same land and its giants, but they envisioned a glorious conquest instead. Faith made the difference in what they perceived. But the majority chose to disobey God, withdrawing instead of advancing by trusting God.

Forty-five years later, the Israelites were once again at the edge of the Promised Land. Only Caleb and Joshua remained of their generation. Caleb was the oldest warrior in the nation. It's only natural that he would be expected to ask for an easy assignment. Joshua was the commander-in-chief and Caleb was the most senior tribal leader. He had seniority over everyone else. And he deserved a favor from Joshua.

So, he goes to Joshua and tells him, "I need a favor from you. When Moses was alive, he made some promises to me (He told me back then, "I owe you a big one."), and now, I want to collect from you. Do me this big favor." Joshua was probably thinking that Caleb wanted to be retired and exempted from military service. Instead, he heard the most ridiculous request for favor he ever heard. Caleb tells him, "Give me the most difficult assignment in the land. I want Hebron. I want this mountain where the giants live. I want this mountain where the best fortified cities are. The Lord has given this mountain to me. I want it."

When your faith is planted on Kingdom soil, it has no choice but to grow. It will become a giant tree, connecting heaven and earth. When you have the kind of faith that is linked to the Kingdom of Heaven, there are no giants that you cannot conquer. With Kingdom "mustard faith," there are no mountains too big.

Today, as we ordain Prom and Norma for the gospel ministry in the Philippines, I think about Caleb once more. Prom and Norma are supposed to be enjoying an easy retirement life now. Instead, they are undertaking the most difficult assignment from Gospel Life. Some of their friends (who are not yet familiar with living the Kingdom life in God's eternal realm) are asking: What's wrong with them? What if they get sick over there? What will they do apart from their children and grandchildren? This kind of life at their age will be just too hard on them. What are they thinking?

The truth is they can't help themselves. The King has planted their faith on Kingdom soil. And there's nothing impossible in the Kingdom. So, as the Kingdom grows, they, too, will grow. Now, that's mustard seed faith!