

6.6.2P.Kingdom-moving Prayer: Israel moved from Unbelief. Mark 11:20-25.

Shepherd, how you pray is a direct indicator of your view of God. David feared God, and this *highest regard* for God caused him to view the world and its obstacles as mere opportunities to reveal his exceeding and unstoppable power.

Yet, if your heart is bound with this earth, you will serve a little God, whose small interests mirrored your own cheap requests—for comfort, or little baubles, or cheap fancies. A new car, or better experiences at the grocery store, or a new television.

As one who has seen the prayers of his generation trivialize from world evangelism and a new generation of servants for Jesus to the errata and minutia of life—church carpets, new sound systems, or the success of programs.

But, in these last days, there is the greatest need for your bold prayers, as the Lord God arises to shine his glory upon the earth before his great judgments befall.

You are seeing the waning moments of Israel's desolation, soon to be replaced with a pure faith and a passionate embrace of Jesus as its Redeeming Mashiach.

But, nothing will happen unless you start to pray.

1) **Fortify your Faith** with the Word and the Lord's great victories. Remind yourself of Joshua before Jericho, or Hezekiah listening to the taunts of Sennacherib, or Jeremiah as the seventieth year of exile drew to a close.

2) **Draw near to know** the **Heart of the Lord**. You are called to be a "Shepherd after my own heart," God says (Jeremiah 3:15). So, draw near to know the Lord's heart for his obstinate people.

3) **Find out where the Mountain must Go.** Jesus talks about casting the “mountain” into the “sea”—a picture of an obstinate and immovable mountain being thrown into the sea of humanity for its unbelief. But you find out from the Lord—how must the Mountain be moved next?

So, Shepherd of Israel, know your God, be strong, and take action—boldly pray for the Mountain to be moved.

Case Study: Dislodging the Immovable:

After years of joining the Jewish community and praying for its people, the *boulder in their hearts* revealed itself. One of my friends told me the paternity of Jesus by the Holy Spirit disqualified him to be the Davidic Mashiach, for God, not David, was his father.

With more prayer, more dialogue, and a certainty that this *boulder* would be dislodged,

the Lord revealed how this blockage would be dislodged. A series of *toledot-zera* promises, then a series of *hakimoti zera*- raising up Seed, led to 2 Samuel 7:12 and the fact that God promises to “raise up David’s Seed,” claiming the right of *geullah* like Boaz and Judah before him, thus rendering the Seed raised up both the Son of God and the Son of David (vv.12, 14).

Through a published paper online and this website, www.jesusmashiach.com, this ancient promise of God is dislodging Israel’s *main blockage* to the legitimacy of Jesus as the Lord’s Mashiach.

But now, the Mountain stands before you, O Shepherd. Will you prove God’s mountain-moving power by your faithful prayers?

Read Mark 11:20-25.

²³ Truly, I say to you, whoever says to this **mountain**, ‘Be taken up and thrown **into**

the sea, and **does not doubt** in his heart, but **believes** that what he says will come to pass, it will be **done** for him. ²⁴Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours. Mark 11:23-24.

Background:

Faith: Responding to God's Revealed Promise.

Obviously, “**faith**” is not a rubber-stamp to support the fleshly man in his passions. As James says, “You ask and do not receive because would spend it on your passions” (James 4:3). So, *faith* is not a means by which we test God.

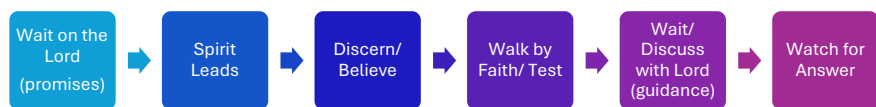
Instead, we walk by “**faith**” and not by sight (2 Cor. 5:7) because the servant of the Lord, especially if you are called to be a *Shepherd* of his *Household*, must know the mind of his Lord. By knowing and obeying His Word (John 14:21) and meditating on the Law of God (Joshua 1:8). Essentially, faith is to “**know**” what God has revealed as His Will and what must happen and to pray fervently and act so that what He desires might come to pass.

As a *shepherd sent to the House of God*, there will be many “mountains” that will stand in the way of what God wants for your people. The encouragement of Jesus here is that your *faith is enough* to pray against these “mountainous” obstacles. For, “all things are possible for him who believes” (Mark 9:23).

Because *faith* grows in response to the Word of God planted, if you know that God’s Word ordains that something must happen—in this case, the *fig*

tree must bear fruit. When this does not happen, pray that the *hardness stifling fruitfulness be removed!*

Praying with Conviction:



Again, if the Word of God sees *faith growing*, even in the “smallest” of ways (Matthew 17:20), you can know that God will act! This growing *faith* is called a “conviction”—you know that God will act according to His Word.

If you are not certain about what to pray or how to pray, this is a good opportunity to simply present yourself to the Lord and wait on him. Seek to know his mind. Pore over the Word of God to uncover his will on this particular area of prayer.

Also, be sure to pray about this in the Spirit. Let him guide you into the area of need that is on

the Father's heart. In this way, your initial prayers may be focused and a conviction and growing sense of what the Lord plans to do will emerge. Remember, prayer is aligning yourself with what the Lord God wants and may be already doing in this world!

Prayer: Changing Present Realities according to God's Purpose.

So, as a *shepherd of God's House*, pray freely and courageously, especially when mountainous foes threaten God's work in the people to whom you are called!

By faith through prayer, you will witness the *seen* reality being transformed to take shape according to the Word.

But, always remember that prayer is not cheap. In prayer, you are presenting yourself to God in sacrifice along with your requests. So, as you pray, be open to hear how you might be part of his answer. May your faith lead you to act boldly,

knowing with conviction that what you asked of God will come to pass.

Rocky Places/ Moving Mountains:

But, what are these “mountains” that Jesus refers to? Israel and the nations—great populations, are called “mountains.” And, this occasion to talk about mountain-moving prayer is his disappointment with the fig-tree and its barrenness. Prophetically, the “fig-tree” refers to Israel, and how it has born no fruit for the Kingdom, having already reject its King and Mashiach, Jesus. Israel is fruitless in its unbelieving resistance to the Mashiach.

So, the people of this House are like the “rocky soil” of the parables whose hearts are hardened to Jesus and Word of God. This entire population, in its hardness, is like a vast mountain. What does Jesus do in response to the hardness of Israel? Does he simply give up and part ways with his obstinate people? The Calling of Jesus as Israel’s

anointed shepherd compels him to both *rebuke* Israel's *barrenness* and unbelief and fruitlessness. In the presence of its rightful Mashiach, it should be fruitful and its people responding with faith. But, he does not simply rebuke, but he shows his disciples that they can not only *rebuke* Israel's hardness but also *pray for the nation to "move."*

Let's first consider the scope of Jesus's words. Jesus is confronting not simply a fruitless tree but the obstinacy, the unbelief and barrenness of an entire people, the House of Israel. And, when he *speaks to "wither"* the tree, his words portend a greater work that will affect the entire nation. After Jesus *calls for the tree to be fruitless*, the nation of Israel experienced a time of exile and barrenness that has lasted nearly two millennia—the "two days" prophesied by Hosea (6:2).

So, when Jesus calls for "whoever" might respond to his call, he invites someone with the same faith, the same calling, to not just rebuke the

House of Israel. Rather, Jesus calls a *household shepherd* to pray the entire “mountain of obstinate Israel” be uprooted and “thrown into the sea” (12:23). In other words, Jesus encourages you that despite the impossibility of the task, it is possible to have the faith to pray for the entire House to be moved. Indeed, the “obstinate house of Israel” was uprooted and “thrown into the sea”—a picture depicting the waves of tossing humanity. So, Israel was displaced in the year 70 CE and cast into the nations, the vast “sea” of the nations.

But, Israel’s mountainous obstinacy still remains to this day. Will you hear the Lord’s call to *seek the Lord* on what to do with this mountain? Will you be led to *pray* that this mountain be “thrown” and moved? That its unbelief uprooted and cast down?

Remember, *prayers* are offered to the Lord God along with your own life, so as you pray, consider

what it might cost you in your faith-walk to see this mountain moved!

Case Study: A boulder of Unbelief.

In my walk with the Lord, he has sent me to serve the House of Israel and to help it be freed of a burdensome boulder of unbelief.

When I was in my mid-twenties, the Lord God called me to help to move a *blockage* that kept his people from believing in Jesus as Mashiach. At that point, I started to pray against this *blockage*, though I had no idea what shape this problem took. So, I went out by faith, praying for the Lord to free his people Israel.

I left my university job, my home in Hawaii, and friends and family. As I traveled alone through the city of Chicago, praying for open doors, my studies took me to Reform, Conservative, and Chabad congregations. I worshipped with them, ate with them, and prayed. I continued to lose precious things—love relationships, job opportunities, career.

Then, a conversation with a friend opened my eyes. For Torah-observant Jews and those who know of the Biblical prophecies of Mashiach, there is an especially troubling “boulder” regarding the paternity of the Mashiach which causes many to stumble. Let me share a conversation I had once with a friend from Skokie as we were talking about Mashiach:

J: Let me ask you, who are the parents of Jesus?

Me: Jesus was born of the Virgin Mary, who was approached by the Holy Spirit to conceive.

J: For the sake of argument, we can concede that Jesus, born of the Holy Spirit, is “the son of God.” But he cannot be the Son of David, and therefore, he cannot be the Jewish Mashiach.

Me: His lineage traces through Mary?

J: Matrilineal descent is invalid.

Me: Through Joseph?

J: Neither through adoption.

I told J. that I would need to get back to him.

More seeking God. More open doors to listen as

Orthodox study participants discussed Torah together. Then, the Lord opened my eyes as a clear path unfolded, and the word kept being repeated: “evum.” What is “evum?” Later, I realized that they were saying “Yibbum.” The Jewish people had provided themselves the key to their *self-imposed reservations!* I wrote back to J: God promises in 2 Samuel 7:12-16 to “raise up Seed” for David. When Zera is raised up by *redemptive right—by geullah*, so that the one who “raises up Seed” is relative (like Judah or Boaz) rather than a dutiful brother (yibbum), then the Seed raised up is the Son of two fathers, merging two lines into one. So, God promises that the “Seed” would be David’s Son (2 Samuel 7:12) and God’s Son (v.14).

So, when the Holy Spirit uses David’s own bodily material (v.12—perhaps his tears? Ps.56:8) to raise up Jesus as David’s “Seed,” then Jesus is the Son of David and the Son of God!

I found that Jewish readers are well accustomed to read this clear scriptural path of “raising up Seed,” but they stop short at 2 Samuel 7:12. But, the Mashiach’s dual paternity is not a boulder but the power behind his Redemptive work.

The path to see this boulder was circuitous and long, but it is a boulder that should not ever trouble Israel to keep it from its rightful Mashiach, Jesus!

Focus:

Kingdom-moving Prayer: Israel to be Moved from place of Unbelief. 11.20-25

1. Rebuking Israel’s Fruitlessness: by faith, know obstruction to God’s plan (11:20-22).

2. Removing Mountainous Unbelief: thrown into judgment if Faith matches God’s mind (11:23)

3. Receive Answer by Aligning Faith with **God's Purpose:** Know God by Faith. (11:24-25).

Consider:

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Question:

Further Discovery:

