

Faith That Will Move Mountains

Genesis 22:1-8 –NIV - Abraham Tested

(Abraham was 100 and Sarah was 90 when Isaac was born.)

22 Sometime later **God tested Abraham**. He said to him, “Abraham!”
“Here I am,” he replied.

² Then God said, “Take your son, your only son, whom you love—**Isaac**— and go to the region of Moriah. **Sacrifice him there** as a burnt offering on a mountain I will show you.”

³ Early the next morning Abraham got up and loaded his donkey. He took with him two of his servants and his son Isaac. When he had cut enough wood for the burnt offering, he set out for the place God had told him about.

⁴ On the third day Abraham looked up and saw the place in the distance.

⁵ He said to his servants, “Stay here with the donkey while I and the boy go over there. We will worship and then we will come back to you.”

⁶ Abraham took the wood for the burnt offering and placed it on his son Isaac, and he himself carried the fire and the knife. As the two of them went on together,

⁷ Isaac spoke up and said to his father Abraham, “Father?”

“Yes, my son?” Abraham replied.

“The fire and wood are here,” Isaac said, “**but where is the lamb for the burnt offering?**”

⁸ Abraham answered, “God himself will provide the lamb for the burnt offering, my son.” And the two of them went on together.

******God tested Abraham, not to trip him and watch him fall, but to deepen his capacity to obey God and thus to develop his character.***

- ***God refines us through difficult circumstances...***

That morning Abraham began one of the greatest acts of obedience in recorded history...

- Obeying God often is a struggle - - -
- It may mean giving up something we truly want...

We should not expect our obedience to God to be easy or to come naturally...

Through this difficult experience, Abraham strengthened his commitment to obey God.

Abraham also learned about **God's ability to provide** –

- It would be forced by his ability to have **FAITH!!!!**
- Our **BIG** problems **won't seem so impossible** if we let God handle them...

What is faith?

Philip Yancey defines faith as: "Believing in advance in something that will only seem logical when seen in reverse."

Faith is: simply believing, not just in God's ability, but also in His willingness to help us.

Mountains - - - God Provides

- Earth movers - Machinery made to move mountains
- We Used to be limited by natural obstacles
- Whether mountains or valley's, they can be turned into level plains

When it comes to ***accomplishing what God wants us to do!***

- There will always be **obstacles** to our **FAITH...**

We must have an equalizer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

Matthew 9:27-30 – NIV - **Jesus Heals the Blind and the Mute**

²⁷ As Jesus went on from there, **two blind men followed him**, calling out, "**Have mercy on us**, Son of David!"

²⁸ When he had gone indoors, the blind men came to him, and he asked them, "**Do you believe that I am able to do this?**"

"**Yes, Lord,**" they replied.

²⁹ Then he touched their eyes and said, "**According to your faith** let it be done to you";

³⁰ and their **sight was restored**.....

Faith becomes our equalizer!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

- They Expressed **a need** - - -
- **Persistent** following
- The Lord Asked **if they believed** He could do it???
- **YES!!!!**
- According to **your FAITH** - - - **LET IT BE DONE!!!** –
- Their blinded Eyes were **opened**.....

Dramatic and significant is the story of the Pilgrims:

On **December 21, 1620**, the voyaging Mayflower dropped anchor in Plymouth Bay, with Captain Christopher Jones at her helm.

It had been a **grueling voyage**, taking the 120 ton-capacity ship 66 days to make the perilous crossing.

There had been disease, anxiety, and childbirth among the **102 courageous passengers. Over half died...**

They had come to a wilderness to carve out a better way of life!!!

Faith prompted the voyage; **faith** sustained the Pilgrims and their religious convictions, **Faith** - constrained them to **raise their voices in praise**.

Their hardship, sacrifice, devotion, concept of government, and vigorous religion all remind us of those who through Faith - sought a country.

FAITH WILL MOVE THE MOUNTAINS!!

Matthew 21:21 – NIV

²¹ Jesus replied, “Truly I tell you, **if you have faith** and do not doubt, not only can you do what was done to the fig tree, but also **you can say to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and it will be done.**

- **Jesus is making a point** here to the disciples of their lack of Faith.

Unbelief puts our circumstance between God, and us, But FAITH puts God between us and our circumstances.

What kind of mountains do you face?

- Have you talked to God about them?
- How strong is **YOUR FAITH?**

Mark 9:23 – NIV

²³ “‘If you can?’” said Jesus. “**Everything is possible** for one who believes.”

- ***Nothing is too difficult for God.***

With **FAITH** we can have **everything we need to serve GOD!**

Through our faith all things become possible to us!

On October 18, 1879, a young inventor by the name of **Thomas A. Edison sat in his laboratory:**

He was weary from 13 months of repeated failure in his search for a filament that would stand the stress of electric current.

To add to his problems, the men who had backed him financially were now refusing to put up any additional funds. Having tried every known metal in his experiment, Edison was admittedly baffled.

Casually picking up a bit of lampblack, he mixed it with tar and rolled it into a thin thread. Suddenly the thought struck him, why not try a carbonized cotton fiber?

For 5 hours he worked on the first filament, but it broke before he could remove the mold. Two entire spools of thread were used in similar fruitless efforts.

At last a perfect strand emerged, only to be ruined when he tried to place it inside a glass tube. **Still Edison refused to admit defeat.**

He continued to work without sleep for two more days and nights. Eventually he managed to insert one of the crude carbonized threads into a vacuum-sealed bulb.

"When we turned on the current," he said, **"the sight we had so long desired** to see finally met our eyes!"

His persistence *in the face of the most discouraging odds* gave the world one of its greatest inventions -- the electric light!

FAITH WILL MOVE MOUNTAINS!!

God does not respond to need, but only to faith!

He will meet your need, but only according to your faith.

Abraham had no idea of how God was going to take care of the problem; he just knew that He would! **THAT'S FAITH!!!!**

We must all learn to use faith.

Jesus gives the Great commission

Mark 16:16-18 – NIV

¹⁵ He said to them, "Go into all the world and preach the gospel to all creation.

***** Jesus told his disciples to go into all the world, telling everyone that he had paid the penalty for sin.**

Those who believe in him (FAITH) can have eternal life with him.

¹⁶ *Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved, but whoever does not believe will be condemned.*

Water doesn't save, But God's grace accepted through faith in Christ.

¹⁷ *And these signs will accompany those who believe: In my name they will drive out demons; they will speak in new tongues;*

¹⁸ *they will pick up snakes with their hands; and when they drink deadly poison, it will not hurt them at all; they will place their hands on sick people, and they will get well."*

Never were the signs, or gifts intended for just a few to use, but rather for every believer to utilize.

- Our Faith and our witness should center on Jesus...

We have faith; we just need to use it!

These things must become natural to us, and their use in practice in our church on a continual basis.

The working of the Spirit:

- Natural
- Continual
- Needful
- Through everyone
- For everyone

Matthew Henry says:

"Spiritual gifts were extraordinary powers, bestowed upon ordinary people, to convince unbelievers, and to spread the gospel to the lost."

Not only do we need faith that will move mountains, but **also we need to practice faith**, and move the mountains.

CLOSE:

Abraham and Isaac -

Do you have a mountain that needs moved?

Is there an Obstacle that is keeping your Faith from moving your mountain?

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