

Moving Mountains - Stewart Bishop

Matthew 17:20 NKJV

So Jesus said to them, "Because of your unbelief; for assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you."

Mountains can manifest as:

- **Difficulties, self-reliance, setbacks**, stumbling blocks, troubles, burdens,
- Hardship, defeat; **fear**, uncontrolled anger and bitterness;
- Discouragement, disappointments, **failure or fear of failure**,
- **Sickness, disobedience**, crisis and so on. (Not an exhaustive list)

The characteristics of the mustard seed

- Mustard seeds are the small round seeds of various mustard plants. The seeds are usually about 1 to 2 millimetres in diameter and may be coloured from yellowish white to black.
- The size of a mustard seed is only one of its characteristics, and not necessarily the most important one.
- The mustard plant is a fast-growing annual herb, growing up to 10-12 feet tall in only a few months. It was the smallest seed the Jewish people planted in their gardens, so it was called the smallest of seeds. Yet it became the largest plant in their gardens when it was grown.
- The mustard seed is a striking example of the potential of a seed. Although it starts out small and insignificant, it quickly grows into something that blesses others.

Don'ts

- Don't try to remove your mountain in your own strength, wisdom and abilities

Mark 5:25-34 Amplified Bible - The woman with the issue of blood

²⁵ A woman [in the crowd] had [suffered from] a haemorrhage for twelve years, ²⁶ and had endured much [suffering] at the hands of many physicians. She had spent all that she had and was not helped at all, but instead had become worse.

Do's

- Do allow your faith to cause you to push through any obstacle or protocol of the day in order to get your mountain moved by Jesus.
- Do have faith in God and not man

Mark 5:25-34 continued

²⁷ She had heard [reports] about Jesus, and she came up behind Him in the crowd and touched His outer robe. ²⁸ For she thought, “If I just touch His clothing, I will get well.”

²⁹ Immediately her flow of blood was dried up; and she felt in her body [and knew without any doubt] that she was healed of her suffering. ³⁰ Immediately Jesus, recognizing in Himself that power had gone out from Him, turned around in the crowd and asked, “Who touched My clothes?” ³¹ His disciples said to Him, “You see the crowd pressing in around You [from all sides], and You ask, ‘Who touched Me?’” ³² Still He kept looking around to see the woman who had done it. ³³ And the woman, though she was afraid and trembling, aware of what had happened to her, came and fell down before Him and told Him the whole truth.

³⁴ Then He said to her, “Daughter, your faith [your personal trust and confidence in Me] has restored you to health; go in peace and be [permanently] healed from your suffering.”

Mark 11:22 Amplified Bible

²² Jesus replied, “Have faith in God [constantly].

Don'ts

- Don't try to avoid the mountain set before you.
- Don't allow disobedience to manifest as yet another mountain in your life.

Mountains are there to be conquered not avoided!

Jonah 1:1-3 New King James Version - Jonah's Disobedience

¹ Now the word of the Lord came to Jonah the son of Amittai, saying, ² “Arise, go to Nineveh, that great city, and cry out against it; for their wickedness has come up before Me.” ³ But Jonah arose to flee to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord. He went down to Joppa, and found a ship going to Tarshish; so he paid the fare, and went down into it, to go with them to Tarshish from the presence of the Lord.

Don'ts

- Don't go around the same mountain again and again and make no progress; like the children of Israel in the wilderness.

EXODUS 16:35

³⁵ The Israelites ate manna forty years, until they reached an inhabited land; they ate the manna until they came to the border of the land of Canaan.

JOSHUA 5:6

⁶ For the Israelites walked forty years in the wilderness, until all the nation, *that is*, the men of war who came out of Egypt, died because they did not listen to the voice of the Lord; to them the Lord had sworn [an oath] that He would not let them see the land which He had promised to their fathers to give us, a land [of abundance] flowing with milk and honey.

Do's

- Do face your mountain head on
- Do have faith that God will give you your mountain as your promised inheritance
- Do have faith that God will be with you

The faith of Caleb

Joshua 14:7-14 New King James Version

⁷ I was forty years old when Moses the servant of the Lord sent me from Kadesh Barnea to spy out the land, and I brought back word to him as *it was* in my heart. ⁸ Nevertheless my brethren who went up with me made the ^[a]heart of the people melt, but I wholly followed the Lord my God. ⁹ So Moses swore on that day, saying, 'Surely the land where your foot has trodden shall be your inheritance and your children's forever, because you have wholly followed the Lord my God.' ¹⁰ And now, behold, the Lord has kept me alive, as He said, these forty-five years, ever since the Lord spoke this word to Moses while Israel ^[b]wandered in the wilderness; and now, here I am this day, eighty-five years old. ¹¹ As yet I *am as* strong this day as on the day that Moses sent me; just as my strength *was* then, so now *is* my strength for war, both for going out and for coming in. ¹² Now therefore, give me this mountain of which the Lord spoke in that day; for you heard in that day how the Anakim *were* there, and *that* the cities *were* great *and* fortified. It may be that the Lord will be with me, and I shall be able to drive them out as the Lord said." ¹³ And Joshua blessed him, and gave Hebron to Caleb the son of Jephunneh as an inheritance. ¹⁴ Hebron therefore became the inheritance of Caleb the son of Jephunneh the Kenizzite to this day, because he wholly followed the Lord God of Israel.

Do's

- Do take and conquer the mountain – placing it under your feet, taking dominion over the mountain, taking hold of your inheritance even when that inheritance means conquering the giants that occupy your land of inheritance.
- Do have faith that God is with you, and that god is bigger, stronger, wiser and more powerful than your mountains.

Jesus said in John 14:1 that when we are facing life's mountains:

John 14:1 Amplified Bible

¹ "Do not let your heart be troubled (afraid, cowardly). Believe [confidently] in God *and* trust in Him, [have faith, hold on to it, rely on it, keep going and] believe also in Me.

Going through the mountain:

- Do go through
- Do pass right through without being injured.

Daniel 3:20-27 New King James Version

²⁰ And he commanded certain mighty men of valor who *were* in his army to bind Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, *and* cast *them* into the burning fiery furnace. ²¹ Then these men were bound in their coats, their trousers, their turbans, and their *other* garments, and were cast into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²² Therefore, because the king's command was urgent, and the furnace exceedingly hot, the flame of the fire killed those men who took up Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego. ²³ And these three men, Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, fell down bound into the midst of the burning fiery furnace. ²⁴ Then King Nebuchadnezzar was astonished; and he rose in haste *and* spoke, saying to his counselors, "Did we not cast three men bound into the midst of the fire?" They answered and said to the king, "True, O king." ²⁵ "Look!" he answered, "I see four men loose, walking in the midst of the fire; and they are not hurt, and the form of the fourth is like the Son of God."

Nebuchadnezzar Praises God

²⁶ Then Nebuchadnezzar went near the mouth of the burning fiery furnace *and* spoke, saying, "Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego, servants of the Most High God, come out, and come *here*." Then Shadrach, Meshach, and Abed-Nego came from the midst of the fire. ²⁷ And the satraps, administrators, governors, and the king's counselors gathered together, and they saw these men on whose bodies the fire had no power; the hair of their head was not singed nor were their garments affected, and the smell of fire was not on them.

If you are going through something; you are highly favoured and blessed by the Lord.

Going through means you won't get stuck in the middle of the mountain.

Going through means you are coming out on the other side.

Going through means you will walk through the flames with Jesus and come out on the other side not even smelling of smoke.