

A Little Faith Goes a Long Way

Matthew 17:14-20

“Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” - Matthew 17:20

Main Point: If we desire to see God’s power unleashed, faith in the requirement.

Introduction: Use the following questions to introduce the topic of discussion -

Who was or is your favorite super hero? Why?

What powers do they possess? What things must happen in order for them to appear and use their super powers?

Throughout the Gospels, we see story after story of Jesus’ special powers. As He traveled throughout the countryside teaching and ministering to others, it was His general practice to also heal many of their ailments and illnesses. But what role did human beings play in His work? Did they have to pray a certain way or have a certain level of faith in order for Jesus’ power to work? These are the questions we will explore in our passage today. In so doing, we will see that our faith and our prayers are a conduit for the power of God in our lives, and that God’s power is evident in us as we humbly obey Him.

Read Matthew 17:14-20. Your Faith should:

1) **INFLUENCE OTHERS.** Refer back to Matthew 17:14-15.

Describe the setting in these verses. Who stood to gain the most from this man’s faith? What kind of influence might his actions have on others around him?

Have you ever been encouraged to keep your faith to yourself? Or, maybe someone has told you their faith in a private matter? What would Jesus say in response to that reasoning?

If you had the chance to influence someone’s life for the better, would you take it? Why are we so hesitant to share our faith despite knowing the benefits?

2) **BE A CONDUIT OF GOD’S POWER.** Read Matthew 17:16-18.

Faith is what wires us to the power of God. It is the road on which the power of God travels. In whom did the man have faith? Why didn’t he give up after the disciples were unsuccessful?

What words did Jesus use to describe his disciples and the people around him? Would he use the same language to describe you? Our church? Our generation? Share with the group.

What part does prayer play in our faith and God's power? How have you seen His power move through prayers of faith?

3) **PRODUCE.** Read Matthew 17:19-20.

How have you been affected when those you admire failed to show the kind of faith you believed they had? Did that produce stronger or weaker faith in you?

If we allowed our faith to permeate every aspect of our lives and operated in God's power, not our own, what things might we see produced in our homes, or workplaces, and our community/nation?

Jesus refers to a mustard seed. When planted, a seed should produce more of its own kind. When our faith is rooted in Christ it should produce more faith in others. How are you cultivating faith in others today? What could you do this week to water those seeds?

Apply It:

All that God has called us to accomplish in this life is only made possible by our union and ongoing communion with Christ. Where has this relationship been severed in your life? I.e. - where do you need to be grafted back into the vine (John 15:5) and have your faith renewed that it might produce again?

Pray:

God we pray for the faith that brings healing in the lives of others. Increase our faith God in your power and the wonders of your hands. We lift up those in this group who need to experience your power today and ask that our faith be enough to release a great work in your name. Let our faith be the conduit and may we produce fruit in your kingdom this week. Amen.

Coming up at VillageChurch:

May 21: VillageOpen Golf Tournament: Help raise money for students to attend camp

May 27: Graduate Recognition: Send pictures to james@blythewoodvillage.com