

**"Prayer" Part 3**  
**Mount of Olives | August 10, 2025 | Matthew 17:14-20**  
**Pastor Jim Reynen**

**Prayer of the Day**

Heavenly Father, what an inexpressible joy it is to know the saving grace provided by You through our Lord Jesus. The assurance that, no matter our circumstances, You forgive us and ultimately desire the best for us, provides peace that passes all understanding. Thank You for Your grace as we attempt to devote our lives to You. In Jesus' Name, Amen

**Scripture Reading**

Matthew 17:14-20

When they came to the crowd, a man came to him, knelt before him, and said, "Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is an epileptic and he suffers terribly; he often falls into the fire and often into the water. And I brought him to your disciples, but they could not cure him." Jesus answered, "You faithless and perverse generation, how much longer must I be with you? How much longer must I put up with you? Bring him here to me." And Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of him, and the boy was cured instantly. Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, "Why could we not cast it out?" He said to them, "Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of 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."

**Message Notes**

Matthew 17:1-7

Six days later, Jesus took with him Peter and James and his brother John and led them up a high mountain, by themselves. And he was transfigured before them, and his face shone like the sun, and his clothes became dazzling white. Suddenly there appeared to them Moses and Elijah, talking with him. Then Peter said to Jesus, "Lord, it is good for us to be here; if you wish, I will make three dwellings here, one for you, one for Moses, and one for Elijah." While he was still speaking, suddenly a bright cloud overshadowed them, and from the cloud a voice said, "This is my Son, the Beloved; with him I am well pleased; listen to him!" When the disciples heard this, they fell to the ground and were overcome by fear. But Jesus came and touched them, saying, "Get up and do not be afraid."

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**Study Questions – Read Matthew 17:14-20**

**ICEBREAKER – Getting started:**

1. Have you ever tried to help someone but felt totally unprepared or powerless? What happened? Describe the situation.
2. What's something small that had a big impact in your life—like a “mustard seed” moment?
3. What's a challenge in your life that feels “impossible” right now?
4. When have you seen someone show strong faith in a difficult situation? What did that look like?

**Based on Matthew 17:14-20, answer the following questions:**

**OBSERVATION – What does the text say?**

1. As you read **Matthew 17:14-20**, what comes to mind? What stands out? What is interesting to you and why?
2. In one sentence, how would you summarize this text?
3. What lesson or message do you think the author is trying to convey?

**INTERPRETATION – What does the text mean?**

1. Who brings the boy to Jesus, and what details are given about the boy's condition?
2. What does the father's request reveal about his attitude toward Jesus and the disciples?
3. How does Jesus describe the generation in verse 17, and what might He be referring to?
4. What happens immediately when Jesus rebukes the demon?
5. Why were the disciples unable to heal the boy, according to Jesus?
6. What is the significance of Jesus' statement about faith “as small as a mustard seed”?
7. How does this passage define or challenge our understanding of faith and spiritual authority?
8. What does “nothing will be impossible for you” mean in the context of this story?

**APPLICATION – How can you apply the text?**

1. What kind of situations in your life require “mustard seed” faith right now?
2. How can we grow our faith when we feel weak, unsure, or discouraged?
3. What role does prayer play in strengthening your faith?
4. In what ways do we sometimes rely on our own strength instead of trusting God in faith?
5. How can we cultivate a mustard-seed kind of faith in our daily walk with Jesus?