**Mark 11 (begin reading with me at verse 20)**

MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH (series)

**4—FAITH IN GOD**

**Mark 11:12–14 (NKJV)** Now the next day, when they had come out from Bethany, He was hungry. **13** And seeing from afar a fig tree having leaves, He went to see if perhaps He would find something on it. When He came to it, He found nothing but leaves, for it was not the season for figs. **14** In response Jesus said **to it**, “Let no one eat fruit from you ever again.” And His disciples heard it. **…**

**NOW LET’S ALL READ VERSES 20–26 TOGETHER… 20** Now in the morning, as they passed by, they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots. **21** And Peter, remembering, said to Him, “Rabbi, look! The fig tree which You cursed has withered away.” **22** So Jesus answered and said to them, “Have faith in God. **23** For assuredly, I say to you, whoever says to this mountain, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done, he will have whatever he says. **24** Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. **26** “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26** But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

**EX – Avocado Tree & Axe Story – Manuel Garcia (told by wife Maria)**

**JESUS SAID,** “Have faith in God,” **… NOT HAVE FAITH IN YOURSELF… SINCE YOU WERE CREATED IN THE IMAGE AND LIKENESS OF GOD AND THEREFORE CAN SPEAK AND BELIEVE ANYTHING YOU WANT AND IT WILL BE DONE WITHOUT GOD’S POWER.**

**NOTICE VERSE 26…** “And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heaven may also forgive you your trespasses. **26** But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”

**WHAT IS JESUS SAYING?**

**… HE’S SAYING, DON’T EXPECT THIS PRINCIPLE OF SPEAKING AND BELIEVING TO WORK WITHOUT YOUR HEART BEING RIGHT WITH GOD.**

**WAIT A MINUTE… YOU MIGHT SAY, “JERRY, WHAT ABOUT WHEN WITCHES, WARLOCKS, AND SATANISTS SPEAK CURSES OVER PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND CITIES AND THEY COME TO PASS… IS THAT THE POWER OF GOD?**

**NO!!! THE DEVIL IS HAPPY TO BRING THOSE THINGS TO PASS.**

**THAT’S EXACTLY WHAT THE BIBLE SAYS THE ANTICHRIST WILL DO WHEN HE COMES… LISTEN TO…**

**2 Thessalonians 2:9 (NKJV)** “The coming of the lawless one is according to the working **of Satan**, with all power, signs, and **lying wonders**.”

**WHY ARE THEY “LYING WONDERS?” BECAUSE PEOPLE WILL THINK IT’S THE POWER OF GOD.**

**SOME PEOPLE… INCLUDING DECEIVED BELIEVERS… HAVE BEEN WORKING THIS PRINCIPLE OF SPEAKING AND BELIEVING WITHOUT BEING SUBMITTED TO GOD, AND YET SEEING SUPERNATURAL THINGS COME TO PASS… BUT IT’S WITH THE DEVIL’S POWER.**

**THAT’S A DEADLY DECEPTION.**

**THREE CHAPTERS EARLIER JESUS SAID THIS IN…**

**Mark 8:36 (NKJV)** For what will it profit a man if he gains the whole world, and loses his own soul?

**SO YOU CAN ACTUALLY GET SUPERNATURAL THINGS TO COME TO PASS IN YOUR LIFE… AND THINK GOD IS DOING IT… AND BE COMPLETELY DECEIVED… AND GO TO HELL FOR ETERNITY… YES**

**REMEMBER…**

**1 John 5:14–15 (NKJV)** Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything according to His will, He hears us. **15** And if we know that He hears us, whatever we ask, we know that we have the petitions that we have asked of Him.

**EX**

1. **When we first started The Rock, my brother David––who was our worship pastor––said, “Jerry, the sound system is SO BAD in here… we really need a new sound system.” He was right, but we didn’t have the money… but I said to him, “Don’t worry David, we’ll have everything we need”… and we did!**
2. **I remember Scott Stark, Mike Stark’s brother, having some wrought iron frames welded to hold up so large, Walmart tube TVs for the West Auditorium… and now we have state of the Art LED screens. All by divine supply. At first we only had “State of the Start”** ☺

**EX - Story about Christmas bonuses (2007)… two months in a row our giving was down and we had a shortfall of over $100k each month. [Explanation below]**

**EX – Speaking in faith, “The Rock, The Rock, The Rock, The Rock, The Rock”**

**… And now God said, “Start pushing the ministry of the church down into homes”**

**EX** – **Worship Center Mountain – The mountain of deficit after the Worship Center project… I was putting that mountain and amount up on the screen each week to show people how it was going down… but on more than one occasion it went up because the project was moving so fast, and afterward, bills came in that our team had overlooked in the projections. Over numerous weeks many of us continued giving toward it, and that deficit came down from over $500k to maybe $210k, but then we received one more unanticipated bill and it jumped back up another $30k or so. So I said to the Lord, “This is your problem… I’m just doing what I’m told. I’m too embarrassed to go back out there this Sunday and tell the people that the mountain grew again. So I’m not even going to give them an update… you’ll have to handle it.” And I didn’t. And that next Sunday the amount that came in toward the deficit was very small. And the devil was speaking in my mind… “You’re in trouble now. You still have vendors that need to be paid, and you’ve made the decision not to say anything to the people. So they won’t even know you still need it, so they won’t give toward it. I had to cast those arguments down and keep telling the Lord, “I believe you’re faithful!” The next Sunday came and went, and again, and we only had a small building fund offering.  But that week someone in our church called and said they needed to talk to me. So I called them and they said, “The Lord told me to pay off the rest of that mountain, so I’m calling to get the exact amount that’s left. So I told him that I was embarrassed to say that the amount had gone up since the last time I showed the slide, and he said, “Well I’m glad I called because I remembered the last amount you showed which was lower, but I knew I was supposed to pay off the balance. So I put him in touch with our finance pastor who gave him the exact amount, and he brought a check over for about $231k.**

**[END]**

**Explanation of Christmas Bonuses –** A number of years ago at the beginning of December, after experiencing supernatural growth, we had two consecutive months $100,000 short of our budgeted income… our finance pastor said, “If we have one more month like this, we’ll be in the red. Now this was the time for Christmas bonuses was drawing near. Our staff had been working so hard, and I really wanted to give them a Christmas bonus. After discussing this situation for a few minutes, I said to the Executive Team, let’s stop and pray… while praying, I had this thought, which I shared with the Eteam: “We have no evidence to suggest that God is not faithful to provide all of our needs. All of our bills are paid. We’re not behind on anything. So I suggest that we thank the Lord that He always provides for our needs and move forward with the Christmas bonuses. We did… and He did! After distributing the Christmas bonuses, and paying all of our bills, we ended December with an extra $50,000.