**Mark 11:12–24 (begin reading with me at verse 22)**

MOUNTAIN MOVING FAITH (series)

**2—USE YOUR FAITH**

**Mark 11:12–24 (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.

**NOTICE… JESUS SPOKE TO A TREE… NOT TO GOD ABOUT THE TREE.**

**VERSE 19** When evening had come, He went out of the city **[meaning He went out of the city of Jerusalem, and back over the Mount of Olives to Bethany]**.

**VERSE 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.”

**NOW LET’S ALL READ VERSES 22–24 TOGETHER…**

**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.

**LET’S LOOK AGAIN AT VERSES 21 & 22**

**Mark 11:21–22 (NKJV)** 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**.

**PETER SAID, “RABBI, LOOK” … AND JESUS SAID, “HAVE FAITH”**

**2 Corinthians 5:7 says,** “For we walk by faith, not by sight.”

**JESUS IS TEACHING US TO MAKE A CHOICE TO NOT WALK BY WHAT WE SEE, BUT RATHER BY FAITH**

**Mark 11:23** 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.

**SOME PEOPLE SAY, “WE’LL JESUS WAS NOT SPEAKING ABOUT A LITERAL MOUNTAIN…. HE WAS FIGURATIVELY SPEAKING. WE’LL, LET’S LOOK AT…**

**Matthew 21:20–21 (NKJV)** And when the disciples saw it, they marveled, saying, “How did the fig tree wither away so soon?” **21** So Jesus answered and said to them, “Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith and do not doubt, **YOU** will **NOT ONLY DO what was done TO THE FIG TREE**, **but ALSO** if you **SAY** **to this mountain**, ‘Be removed and be cast into the sea,’ it will be done.

**YOU MAY NOT BELIEVE THAT JESUS WAS SPEAKING ABOUT A LITERAL MOUNTAIN, BUT YOU’RE STUCK WITH THAT FIG TREE.**

**JESUS IS USING TREES AND MOUNTAINS AS OBJECTS TO TEACH US HOW MUCH POWER WE CAN ACTIVATE PRECISELY WITH OUR FAITH… BUT ARE MOVING TREES AND MOUNTAINS HIS POINT???**

**NO… LISTEN TO…**

**Mark 4:35–41 (NKJV)** On the same day, when evening had come, He said to them, “Let us cross over to the other side.” **36** Now when they had left the multitude, they took Him along in the boat as He was. And other little boats were also with Him. **37** And a great windstorm arose, and the waves beat into the boat, so that it was already filling. **38** But He was in the stern, asleep on a pillow. And they awoke Him and said to Him, “Teacher, do You not care that we are perishing?” **39** Then He arose and rebuked the wind, and said to the sea, “Peace, be still!” And the wind ceased and there was a great calm. **40** But He said to them, “Why are you so fearful? How is it that you have no faith?” **41** And they feared exceedingly, and said to one another, “Who can this be, that **even the wind and the sea OBEY HIM**!”

**IS THIS KIND OF AUTHORITY ONLY FOR JESUS? NO…**

**Mark 11:23** 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.

**Luke 17:6 (NKJV)** “If you have faith as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be pulled up by the roots and be planted in the sea,’ and **IT** would **OBEY YOU**.

**EX – MAY 2014 MIRACLE**

**ON MAY 5, 2014, WE WERE IN THE FINAL DAYS OF AN ISRAEL TRIP. THE WATER LEVELS OF THE SEA OF GALILEE WERE VERY LOW, SO AT A PARTICULAR SITE** (NORTHERN ALTAR, TEL FAHER PARK, OLD SYRIAN BUNKERS)**…**

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**… WE GATHERED TOGETHER IN PRAYER, AND WE CALLED FOR RAIN… AND GOD OPENED THE WINDOWS OF HEAVEN!!!!**

**BY THE END OF THE NEXT DAY, MAY 6, THE WIND WAS BLOWING SO HARD FROM THE MEDITERRANEAN SEA, WE COULDN’T EVEN GO INTO CAESAREA BECAUSE THE SAND WAS PELTING US IN THE FACE.**

**WE FLEW OUT LATE THAT NIGHT MAY 6, JUST AS A HUGE STORM WAS BLOWING IN. IT RAINED ALL NIGHT AND INTO THE NEXT DAY, MAY 7.**

**HERE’S THE HEADLINE AND ARTICLE THE FOLLOWING DAY, MAY 8:**

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**ARTICLE BEGINS:** A rare storm dumped rain across Israel over Wednesday night and Thursday morning, causing flash floods and wreaking havoc in the south of the country.

The rains, which caused the Sea of Galilee to rise some 2.5 centimeters (1 inch), were the heaviest ever recorded for the month of May. The precipitation brought dry riverbeds to life, flooding low-lying areas, especially in the Judean Desert and Negev in the south of the country.

On Thursday morning schools near the Dead Sea were closed and several main roads in the area were blocked by authorities. The Eilat airport was temporarily closed due to flooding.

**HERE ARE SOME OTHER EXCERPTS FROM THE ARTICLE…**

* "Unseasonable storm wreaks havoc"
* "Wed night and Thurs morning ACROSS THE COUNTRY"
* "rare occurrence" (miracles are :)
* "40 times the average rainfall for this time of year"
* Route 90 closed is some spots because of flash floods.
* "Three tour buses on their way from the Jordan to En Gedi (Qumran area) were trapped."
* “At Masada, some 200 students and their parents were stranded for hours”
* 70 American tourist campers had to be rescued by helicopter.

**WELL… CONTROLLING STORMS CAN BE HELPFUL, BUT ARE THEY THE PRIMARY FOCUS?**

**NO… LISTEN TO…**

**Luke 4:38–39 (NKJV)** Now He arose from the synagogue and entered Simon’s house. But Simon’s wife’s mother was sick with a high fever, and they made request of Him concerning her. **39** So He stood over her and **rebuked THE FEVER**, and **IT** left her.

**Mark 7:31–35 (NKJV)** Again, departing from the region of Tyre and Sidon, He came through the midst of the region of Decapolis to the Sea of Galilee. **32** Then they brought to Him one who was deaf and had an impediment in his speech, and they begged Him to put His hand on him. **33** And He took him aside from the multitude, and put His fingers in his ears, and He spat and touched his tongue. **34** Then, looking up to heaven, He sighed, and said to him, “Ephphatha,” that is, “Be opened.” **35** Immediately his ears were opened, and the impediment of his tongue was loosed, and he spoke plainly.

**EX – We had just begun expanding and renovating new buildings on this campus… and we had spend all the excess money we had… we had buildigs to renovate and walls between the building to remove… I was up early one morning… I drove my Yukon XL behind what would become Treasure Island… I was listening to a teaching and my faith was being stirred… and I heard the Lord say, “What are you waiting for? Why don’t you use your faith to knock these walls down and get these buildings renovated?” … so I got out and commanded that those walls be removed… when our staff came in I brought them out and told them to command that the walls be removed… and that next Saturday night, right after the service… a man I’d never seen before walked up and said, “Do you want to remove those walls?”**

**[END]**