



“TO MOVE A MOUNTAIN”

By Mary Mayko

Matthew 21:21-22CEV “But Jesus said to them, “If you have faith and don’t doubt, I promise that you can do what I did to this tree. And you will be able to do even more. You can tell this mountain to get up and jump into the sea, and it will. If you have faith when you pray, you will be given whatever you ask for.”

These are pretty amazing words that Jesus said to the disciples that day! Did He mean that we could literally tell a mountain to go jump into sea? Jesus had just cursed a fig tree and it dried up right before their eyes! They were totally shocked! Jesus then challenged them to pray with true faith for what they needed. I believe the mountain could have been real or a metaphor for a problem that grew to overwhelming size!

I once heard a testimony about a church that needed a mountain leveled off so they could have a parking lot. A little girl stood in the parking area and asked God to level the mountain. A few days later, a construction Co. came and asked the pastor if they would consider selling off part of the mountain next to the church for a landfill he needed! The little girl said she knew God would move that mountain, because He promised He would! Not only was the parking extended as needed, but the church was paid for the removal of the landfill by the Company that had moved the mountain!

Most of the scriptures verses about prayer have certain conditions connected with them. I believe when we are aware of Godly principles, we will not ask God for something unless it is a real need and He will get the glory for providing it for us. We are warned that we are not to ask for something to fulfill our lusts or greed. God is not a puppet who jumps at our command! If we ask according to His Word and purpose with faith, we can expect the answers, although we may have to wait awhile for it!

In the Bible, mountains are often used symbolically, yet also used literally at times as a meeting place with God. Think of Abraham with Isaac, Moses receiving the Ten Commandments or Jesus facing and overcoming temptations, and the disciples with Jesus on the Mt of Transfiguration, these are just a few!

The word mountain was and is, often used as a metaphor. Mountains were used as the background for spiritual battles, or times when seemingly impossible situations were suddenly resolved! In Matt.4:1-11, especially verses 8-9 Satan offers Jesus the kingdoms of this world if Jesus would bow and worship him! Jesus used scriptures to combat Satan and win. There are many battles that take place in these unseen spiritual mountain kingdoms where the enemy of our soul tries to destroy our freedoms in Christ!

Mountaintop experiences are said to be a place where one gains new insight or encouragements and strength. [Ephesians 6] Wear God's armor!

God's mountain can be a place of protection or help for us in our times of need. Psalm 121:1-2 "I will lift up mine eyes unto the hills from whence cometh my help. My help cometh from the LORD which made heaven and earth.

Psalm 125:1-2 "They that trust in the Lord shall be as Mount Zion, which cannot be removed, but abideth forever. As the mountains are round about Jerusalem, so the LORD shall be round about His people from henceforth even forever." How comforting it is to know our protection comes from the Everlasting God, whose powers are above every other power or mountain! God fights our battles as we pray and trust Him without doubting! [Mt 21:21-22] Isa. 31:4 "The LORD of Hosts[Armies] come down to fight for Mount Zion, and the hills thereof."

Even though God fights our battles, He expects us to exercise faith as we pray to Him. Matt.17:20-21 " And Jesus said unto them, "Because of your unbelief: for verily I say unto you, if you have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, remove hence to yonder place and it shall remove, and nothing shall be impossible to you. Howbeit, this kind goeth not out but by prayer and fasting." Sometimes we want God to *keep His promises*, when *we have not done what He asked us to do!* !Some things we face are designed to help us *exercise our faith!*

In flying over different mountain ranges out West, I began to see something very interesting! If it were morning on the East side of the mountain, it revealed all the beauty, yet ruggedness and sometimes dangers that were present. Although the way up would be difficult, the brightness would be an encouragement to the climber. However, the West side of the mountain was very dark and shadowy, making it much harder to find your way, whether you were going up or down the mountain. Even though there might be others on the mountain with you, the darkness made you feel very alone. Would you sense or find any dangers and would you be able to avoid them? If you should stumble, would anyone hear your cry for help?

Part of the Father's business is to do spiritual warfare with the kingdoms of Darkness which are dead set on destroying our loved ones or discouraging us from being effective in our prayer life. Mountains are places where we can meet God to gain new visions or the strength needed to face situations with wisdom and courage! Even on the Dark side of the mountain, *where we have to walk by faith*, it brings great comfort to know He is always with us. As we pray [talk] with God, let His Word fill your heart and mind. This helps build up the kind of faith it takes to move a mountain!

What kind of mountain are you on today?

“WISDOM SPEAKS!”

Mary Mayko



Proverbs 8:12-16 CEV “I am Wisdom ~ Common Sense is my closest friend; I possess knowledge and sound judgment.

If you respect the LORD, you will hate evil. I hate pride and conceit and deceitful lies.

I am strong and I offer sensible advice and sound judgment.

By my power kings govern, and rulers make laws that are fair. Every honest leader rules with help from me.”

Wisdom is the Voice of God speaking to the hearts of men. Fools will ignore His Voice, and wise men will bow before Him and walk in obedience. Those who do or say foolish things and tell you God instructed them to do so have been deceived. *God never violates His Character nor will He go against His Written Word! Wisdom always understands this unchangeable principle!*

When I was quite young, my mother had many short *sayings* that she often repeated to her children. It was pretty obvious that some were encouragements and others gave a strong warning about the failure to be obedient! Of course, when we were very young, we were not sure if she was the author of the sayings or where she came by them. *You just knew from the tone of her voice you needed to sit up and take serious heed to what was said!*

When I look back in the history of my own life, my mother was a very wise woman. She had studied the Bible and memorized many scriptures. As I began serious study of the Word, I began to recognize many of those sayings she had used! She often referred to what she called *common sense or horse sense as wise advice!* When she listened to long winded speeches or sermons with words that were spoken to simply impress others, she had this little saying. *“He is educated beyond his intelligence!”*

Now whether that was a phrase she coined or one she had read somewhere, it was impressive! If the motive for the use of such words was to make someone think, *“Wow! He is really smart!”* you need to pause and *reflect on what was he really saying!* Some people are highly educated and have a great deal of knowledge, *but something is missing!* The Book of Proverbs talks much about wisdom, not the earthly kind, but godly wisdom!

Proverbs is full of contrasting statements that reveal the great difference between good and evil, kindness and cruelty, truthfulness and integrity and deceitfulness and lies, etc. It is very clear that righteousness results in blessings from the LORD, while evil actions will bring curses upon a person! This goes for a city or nation as well!

Proverbs 11:10-11 CEV “When honest people prosper and the wicked disappear. The whole city celebrates. When God blesses his people, their city prospers, but deceitful liars can destroy a city.”

Proverbs 14:34-35 KJV “Righteousness exalts a nation, but sin is a reproach to any people. The king’s favor is toward a wise servant: but his wrath is against him that causes shame.”

When our Leaders have faced all kinds of disasters or wars or devastating situations, the ones who were wise called on the Name of the LORD to undertake for the nation and the people. They encouraged their people to do likewise! Many used the well known verse from 2 Chron. 7:14 CEV.

“If my own people will humbly pray and turn back to me and stop sinning, then I will answer them from heaven. I will forgive them and make their land fertile once again.”

Proverbs 29: 18 CEV “Without guidance from God, law and order disappear, but God blesses everyone who obeys his law.”

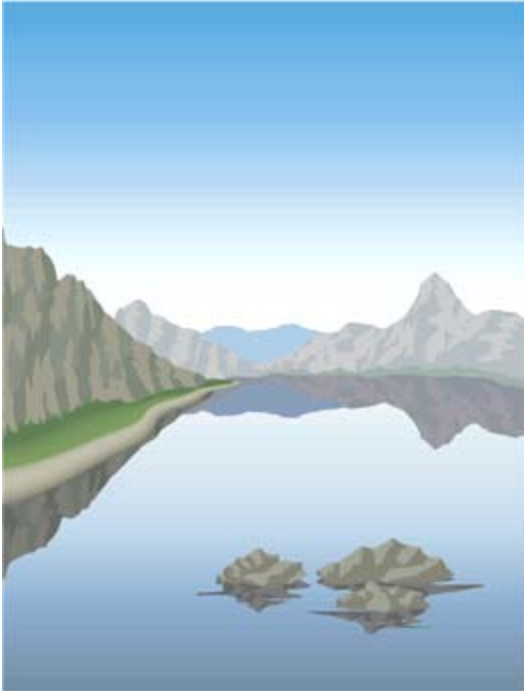
Proverbs 15:33 CEV “Showing respect to God will make you wise, and being humble will bring honor to you.”

As I get older, I reflect on the wisdom in my mother’s words. She always knew God had the final say on all matters, and if we walked in obedience we would be blessed. This does not mean everything will be easy in our lives, for we face difficulties same as others do. The difference is our dependence on our LORD and Savior!

Are you a wise person? The LORD knows!

Proverbs 16:1-3 CEV “We humans make plans, but the LORD has the final word. We may think we know what is right, but the LORD is the judge of our motives. Share your plans with the LORD, and you will succeed.”

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“THE ROCK OF ROCKS!”

By Rev. J Kehl Golding

The story is told of a young lad that joined his family for an exciting day on the water. His father was not only a devoted Dad, but, a very good sea captain. Therefore the entire family had their life jackets on.

All went well until a great storm came up suddenly, and *out of nowhere!* Try as he could, the captain could not keep the boat afloat, and she capsized. The strong winds and waves soon separated the family of five. The boy stayed afloat due to his life jacket, but was helpless as far as swimming in any given direction. Not only that, he had no idea where he was or in what direction he should go! Day light faded to night, and the boy was terribly frightened.

Suddenly, in the black of night he was washed up on a pile of rocks. When the waves receded a bit and he caught his breath, he climbed higher. After a few minutes he realized he was beside a huge high rock. Slowly, clinging to it, he edged higher and higher on it, all the time clinging very close to it. He finally felt a bit safer. Day light came, and hour after hour the boy clung to the rock. The sun was high in the sky when he heard an airplane. He waved as best he could with one arm, as he clung to the rock with the other.

The plane “*dipped*”, letting him know he had been spotted. In no time the Coast Guard was on the scene and he was hurried away to a hospital. A reporter that was present asked him if he was frightened. The boy answered; “I was so scared I trembled and trembled. I couldn’t *stop* trembling ~ ***BUT THE ROCK NEVER TREMBLED!!***”**

I reviewed this story over and over recently. When our family received devastating news about one of our loved ones, *I trembled, but my Jesus never trembled!!*

This happens to all of us in a moment of time, some event, some accident, some news causes us *to tremble!* We tremble in fear of the unknown, the overwhelming circumstances and the impossible. This is the time we *must* understand He is greater than a “*pink slip,*” diseases and circumstances.

The *ROCK never trembles*, the Word makes that clear, we can depend on that! Moses sang of the *ROCK* in Deuteronomy 32:4 “He is this *ROCK*, His work is perfect, for all His ways are judgment: a God of truth and without iniquity, just and right is He.”

David gave a Psalm of thanksgiving in II Samuel 22:3 “The God of my *ROCK*: in Him will I trust: He is my shield, and the horn of my salvation, my high tower, and my refuge, my savior, thou savest me *from violence*.”

Years ago we sang a hymn that brought great blessing and comfort~ “Lead me to the Rock that is higher than I.” It was written from the cry of David’s heart in Psalm 61:2~ “From the ends of the earth will I cry unto thee, when my heart is overwhelmed; lead me to the *ROCK* that is higher than I.”

He totally realized the importance of the Rock in our life. Notice Psalm 89:26 “Thou art my Father, my God, and the Rock of my salvation!”

Do you feel like “*running away?*”

Are you crying out “*make it go away?*”

Are you asking “*Where can I go to get rid of all this overwhelming problem?*”

David found a place, a refuge where he would be safe~ “But the Lord is my defense; and my God is the *ROCK of my Refuge*.” Psalm 94:22

How important is it for you to know Christ as your Savior? Read His Word? Follow His teachings or commandments? Read the words of Jesus Himself in Matthew 7:24-27.

“Therefore whosoever heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock: and the rains descended, and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house; and it fell not: for it was founded upon a rock. And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine, and doeth them *not*, shall be likened unto a foolish man, which built his house upon the sand: and the rains descended and the floods came, and the winds blew, and beat upon that house: *and it fell*: And great was the fall of it.”

Paul affirms this fact in I Corinthians 10:4, he says very clearly~ the Rock of the Old Testament, of Moses, and in the wilderness was Christ~ “*That Rock was Christ!*”

We are living in very difficult times, and as the Rapture comes ever closer, it will become more difficult, for we get nearer and nearer to the Tribulation~ when Satan runs rapid ~ a time like no other.

Today you may be trembling, or tomorrow may bring an event that causes you to tremble, and it may even be on the six o’clock news! But remember “*THE ROCK NEVER TREMBLES!*” Stay close to Him!

Rev, J. Kehl Golding

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** This story was told by Billy Graham in one of his New York City Crusades in the late 1940s. I recorded it in my Bible. “JKG”