

WE HAVE COME THIS FAR BY

FAITH

PART FOUR

Dealing With Your Mountains
Leaves or Figs?

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Mark 11:12-14, 20-26

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Mark 11:22 *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.*

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Mark 11:25 *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.*

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This particular lesson on faith is different
the the one in Matthew 17:20

*“Assuredly, I say to you, if you have faith as
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. 21 However, this kind does not go
out except by prayer and fasting.”*

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**Faith in God is not all about
getting stuff.**

It is about doing God's will.

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**Faith begins where the will of
God is known.**

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**The will of God is never found first
in wanting things for your
enjoyment.**

**The will of God is always connected
to His purpose and your character.**

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Important Question:

Why did Jesus curse the fig tree, if it was not the season for figs?

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Fruitlessness leads to judgment.

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Throughout the Old Testament, God's people is described as God's vineyard, tree, or planting. Fruitfulness is one of God's priorities

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Exodus 23:19

The first of the firstfruits of your land you shall bring into the house of the Lord your God.

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Isaiah 5:1, *Now let me sing to my Well-beloved A song of my Beloved regarding His vineyard: My Well-beloved has a vineyard On a very fruitful hill. 2 He dug it up and cleared out its stones, And planted it with the choicest vine. He built a tower in its midst, And also made a winepress in it; So He expected it to bring forth good grapes, But it brought forth wild grapes. 3 “And now, O inhabitants of Jerusalem and men of Judah, Judge, please, between Me and My vineyard. 4 What more could have been done to My vineyard That I have not done in it?*

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Jesus said in John 15:5

I am the vine, you are the branches. He who abides in Me, and I in him, bears much fruit; for without Me you can do nothing. 6 If anyone does not abide in Me, he is cast out as a branch and is withered; and they gather them and throw them into the fire, and they are burned. 7 If you abide in Me, and My words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you. 8 By this My Father is glorified, that you bear much fruit; so you will be My disciples

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When God created Adam and Eve,
He said, “**Be fruitful and multiply.**”

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**Being fruitful in doing God's will is
part of human nature and God's
purpose**

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In our relationship with God: as his own special planting, it is His will to yield spiritual fruit as his covenant people.

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Psalm 1:3

*He shall be like a tree Planted by the
rivers of water, That brings forth its
fruit in its season, Whose leaf also
shall not wither; And whatever he
does shall*

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Jeremiah 17:8

For he shall be like a tree planted by the waters, Which spreads out its roots by the river, And will not [a]fear when heat comes; But its leaf will be green, And will not be anxious in the year of drought, Nor will cease from yielding fruit.

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Think about your own figs.

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Mark 11:24 *Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them. 25 “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.”***

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Thus the fig tree cursing was not just about a fig tree, it was historical Israel. And it is also about us. It's about all the people of God throughout time.