



**WEEK 2**

## **The Mustard Seed Revolution**

**Up There Down Here**

**Pastor Jared Herd**

**Oct 21 & 22, 2017**

### **LEADER'S GUIDE**

**1. Name a place or time that felt most like “heaven on earth” to you? What made it feel that way? How often do you sense heaven on earth like this?**

This opener will most likely reveal that our idea of heaven on earth is often different than God's idea of it. We tend to think heaven on earth is a beautiful place, rarely visited, that is free of the evidence of the broken state of our planet, or a beautiful moment, where perhaps peace and joy and goodness saturated the event. After people have a chance to share, discuss that maybe what we're really thinking of in these instances is heaven in heaven. God's idea of heaven on earth is bringing His plan for restoration to this broken planet full of broken people. It is embracing the ugly need more than being free of it for a little while.

**2. What do you think is the relationship between faith and prayer?**

Pastor Jared shared a little bit about the concept of faith-shaming; those occasions when you people insinuate if you only had more faith, you'd receive the favor from God that you're praying for. Talk about if that has happened to you, or if you ever realized you projected that mentality onto yourself.

One blogger put the faith/prayer relationship this way: “Faith, as it is related to prayer, is not a tool to obtain what we want but a mindset enabling us to pray as we ought...A tool is something we possess and use to accomplish a task. A tool is under our control...a mindset is a fixed or settled attitude or disposition which determines our approach to, our dealings with, and our interpretation or understanding of something.”

As we have learned at CRB in other sermon series, “It's not the size of your faith that is the key to overcoming doubt, it's recognizing the size of your God.”

**3. Take a look at Matthew 17:14-20.**

### **Matthew 17:14-20** *Jesus Heals a Demon-Possessed Boy*

14 When they came to the crowd, a man approached Jesus and knelt before him. 15 “Lord, have mercy on my son,” he said. “He has seizures and is suffering greatly. He often falls into the fire or into the water. 16 I brought him to your disciples, but they could not heal him.”

17 “You unbelieving and perverse generation,” Jesus replied, “how long shall I stay with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring the boy here to me.” 18 Jesus rebuked the demon, and it came out of the boy, and he was healed at that moment.

19 Then the disciples came to Jesus in private and asked, “Why couldn’t we drive it out?”

20 He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

### **What was happening here? What did the disciples ask Jesus and why?**

Jesus had given the disciples power to do miracles in His name but their faith in this ability was flawed. Here, Jesus tells them they were doubting the legitimacy of His commissioning over them. Perhaps they doubted Jesus picked the right people for the job, or that His enabling of them “didn’t catch.” Why might they have doubted? Have you done the same thing? Jesus reminded them that they had the type of power gifted to them that could move mountains.

What did Pastor Jared tell us probably surprised the disciples most about Jesus’s answer to their question?

It was the use of the word YOU. Talk about that. Round out this question by noting that the implication is **nothing that is according to the will of God for you is impossible**. It was God’s will that this boy be healed.

### **4. What does the phrase “faith as small as a mustard seed” mean to you?**

Your group might like hearing this:

“A mustard seed has a small amount of nourishment within itself to support the germ of life...it must be planted near the surface in rich, fertile ground if it is to flourish. As soon as a tiny shoot emerges, it must immediately obtain food and strength from another source. The soil around it and the sunlight from above must work their miracle if the plant is to survive.” (HBC, Our Daily Bread, Nov 19,1985)

We don’t tend our own faith with our own resources. Our faith is made stronger as we grow **in Christ**, nourished and cherished by Him and by the encouragement and support of others.

### **5. Moving a mountain is a metaphor found in other verses in the Bible; for example, Isaiah 49:8-11 and Job 9:1-10.**

**Isaiah 49:8-11** (NIV) –This is what the Lord says:

“In the time of my favor I will answer you,  
and in the day of salvation I will help you;  
I will keep you and will make you  
to be a covenant for the people,  
to restore the land  
and to reassign its desolate inheritances,  
9 to say to the captives, ‘Come out,’  
and to those in darkness, ‘Be free!’  
“They will feed beside the roads  
and find pasture on every barren hill.  
10 They will neither hunger nor thirst,  
nor will the desert heat or the sun beat down on them.  
He who has compassion on them will guide them  
and lead them beside springs of water.  
11 **I will turn all my mountains into roads,  
and my highways will be raised up.**

#### **Job 9:1-10**

9 Then Job replied:  
2 “Indeed, I know that this is true.  
But how can mere mortals prove their innocence before God?  
3 Though they wished to dispute with him,  
they could not answer him one time out of a thousand.  
4 His wisdom is profound, his power is vast.  
Who has resisted him and come out unscathed?  
5 **He moves mountains** without their knowing it  
and overturns them in his anger.  
6 He shakes the earth from its place  
and makes its pillars tremble.  
7 He speaks to the sun and it does not shine;  
he seals off the light of the stars.  
8 He alone stretches out the heavens  
and treads on the waves of the sea.  
9 He is the Maker of the Bear and Orion,  
the Pleiades and the constellations of the south.  
10 He performs wonders that cannot be fathomed,  
miracles that cannot be counted.

**What is the takeaway from these two other passages?**

**Both of these passages reveal that God flattens obstacles that impede His purposes.**

When and why does God 'move mountains'?

Think about some mountains that you have seen Him move in your own life or someone you know. Can you see where His purposes in that event were bigger than just you or them? How?

**6. Pastor Jared said that a person bringing heaven to earth is someone who is moving mountains. What did he mean?**

Moving mountains in this respect is getting rid of obstacles to Jesus's kingdom life on earth, rather than getting rid of the obstacles to our own happiness on earth.

What are the mountains we're moving?

Talk about the needs of the world we're living in right now and what our role can be in addressing them.

**7. How does this weekend's message show us another view of what the kingdom of Jesus Christ is like?**

A great quote by John Ross to round this out: "The gospel is bigger than trusting in Jesus, so you can get your sins forgiven, so that you can go to heaven after you die. The gospel is trusting in Jesus, entering into an eternal covenant which begins now, and then living in the fullness of God in order to change the world. The call of Christians is not to cross your fingers and hang on tight until the end, but to roll up your sleeves, partner with God, and join the adventure."

**MEMORIZE Philippians 4:13** – "I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."

**MEDITATE:** Pastor Jared shared with us that one person can do something that can benefit thousands. This week consider what you are doing with your time, talent, or treasure that is having that kind of impact. Challenge yourself to find opportunities for God to use all three, especially if only one is being regularly utilized for His kingdom.