

HAVE FAITH IN GOD

Mark 11:1 - 13:37

Key verse 11:22

„Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.”

Thanks be to our Lord for teaching us Jesus' authority through Mark's Gospel. In the first lesson, we saw that Jesus' authority came from his hope in his heart. With his wonderful hope, he called 12 ordinary people to follow him and make them fishers of men. In the second lesson, we learned about Jesus' authority from his shepherd heart. He raised his disciples as shepherds with compassion for the crowd. In the third lesson, we learned about Jesus' servanthship and his life as a ransom for many.

In today's lesson, Jesus prepares his entry into Jerusalem. Through this, Jesus revealed Himself as the Lord of the world, our King and Savior. Even in a hostile environment by the religious leaders, Jesus revealed Himself as God, the Lord of the world. He empowered the disciples as leaders by teaching them faith which moves mountains, prays and forgives. May God use us as rulers over the world and global spiritual leaders who reestablish Jesus' lordship in this generation.

I. The Entry of the Son of Man in Jerusalem as Savior (11:1-12:44)

Let's look at verse 1: „As they approached Jerusalem and came to Bethphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples,” In Jerusalem, according to God's plan, Jesus was to be condemned to death, mocked, scourged and killed, and after three days rise again. In this tribulation, Jesus struggled to raise his disciples as leaders who would continue his work.

Let us read verses 2 and 3: "saying to them, “Go to the village ahead of you, and just as you enter it, you will find a colt tied there, which no one has ever ridden. Untie it and bring it here. If anyone asks you, ‘Why are you doing this?’ say, ‘The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.’”” Jesus taught them who he is: the sovereign Lord of the world, to whom all things belong.

Let us look at verses 4-6. The disciples did as Jesus had told them to. It was not an easy direction to simply take a strange donkey with them. The donkey was considered an important means of transportation at that time, and the disciples looked like poor and strange men. But by obedience of faith, they came to know that Jesus is the Lord of the world. Also the people standing there recognized Jesus' lordship. God used

their obedience by faith in Jesus' lordship for the preparation of Jesus' triumphal entry into Jerusalem.

Our Lord Jesus commanded to go and make disciples of all nations. Our parents obeyed this world mission command by coming as missionaries to a foreign land. They looked like outsiders who did not know the language. But they believed that Jesus is the Lord of the world and the owner of the students' lives. Believing this, they boldly went to campus and helped the students grow as disciples through deep Bible study and common life. Today, we see how Jesus' lordship has been established in their lives. God has even raised them as responsible co-workers and leaders for His work and continues to write His redemptive history through them.

You, the Next Generation, stand on the shoulders of spiritual giants. You have the privilege of inheriting the spiritual legacy of your parents and ancestors of faith, of establishing Jesus' lordship on campus. Jesus is the Lord and owner of the students' lives. Their time, heart and life do not belong to themselves, but to Jesus. God bless you to co-work for World Campus Mission and encourage numerous young people in the campuses: „The Lord needs it." Many students claim that they don't have time for Bible study or worship service. But you may encourage and urge them, "The Lord needs you!"

Let us look at verses 7-10. The disciples led the colt to Jesus. He sat on it, and many spread their cloaks or branches on the road. They shouted, "Hosanna! "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" Outwardly, Jesus rode only on a donkey. But the warm welcome of the crowd shows that Jesus had come as their true Helper and Savior. Praise Jesus, the ruler of the world, our King and Savior from our sins.

Let's look at verse 11. Jesus entered Jerusalem and went into the temple courts and looked around at everything. Since it was already late, he and his disciples went back to Bethany. The next day Jesus saw a fig tree that had only leaves but no fruit. Verse 14 says, „Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it." The tree was like the temple, outwardly beautiful, but actually corrupt and fruitless.

Let us read verse 15: „On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple courts and began driving out those who were buying and selling there. He overturned the tables of the money changers and the benches of those selling doves," The temple was to be a house of prayer for all nations. But it became a den of robbers by those who sought material advantage. Then Jesus was filled with holy wrath. He cleansed the temple of all devilish things and restored it as a house of prayer for all nations. Jesus showed himself as the God of justice and holiness. Actually, the chief priests and the teachers of the law should be filled with fear of God. But verse 18 reports that they wanted to kill Jesus for fear of his influence. Outwardly they were religious leaders, but in reality they rejected God as Lord and sought only the prestige of men.

Let's look at verse 20. When they passed by the fig tree again, the disciples noticed that it had withered from the roots. Peter remembered how Jesus had cursed the fig tree. He was amazed that it had completely died within a day. The other disciples were also amazed at Jesus' authority. How did Jesus empower his disciples?

Let us read verse 22: „Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.” Jesus revealed the secret to his disciples: his authority, by which the fig tree withered within a day and the temple was cleansed, came from his faith in God. What does it mean to have faith in God? It means to acknowledge God as the Almighty Creator and Lord of all things. With God, nothing is impossible. He has even saved us through His Son Jesus Christ and forgiven our transgressions once and for all. Having faith means trusting that we can do nothing, but God can do everything, even accomplishing His work through us at this time.

In verses 23 to 25 Jesus explains this faith in more detail: faith which 1) moves mountains, 2) prays, and 3) forgives.

First: Faith moves mountains. Let us read verse 23: “Truly I tell you, if anyone says to this mountain, ‘Go, throw yourself into the sea,’ and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them.” Jesus wanted to make his disciples fishers of men, shepherds for the flock, and life-giving servants of God (1:17; 6:37; 10:45). Jesus prayed that they would deliver many people from the dominion of sin. Delivering one person from evil spirits and making him a disciple was like an immovable mountain. But by faith, the disciples would see the glory of God. By faith that does not doubt, we may move the mountain into the sea.

Nehemiah always experienced the mighty hand of God through his mountain-moving faith. When he heard that the wall of Jerusalem is broken down, he challenged that mountain, believing that God would surely fulfill His promise. Courageously asking the king for letters to the governors and permission to travel, he rode to the broken wall. Before Nehemiah, however, was not just this single mountain. When he made a decision of faith to rebuild the wall, he realized that a whole mountain range loomed before him: Nehemiah needed workers to build the wall. It seemed impossible for the people who had not risen for 120 years to undertake the rebuilding of the wall. By believing that God would raise up an army of workers and fighters, he established the builders and taught them faith in the great God from the beginning of construction to the end. The people began the good work and completed the wall in only 52 days. During the building of the wall, many more mountains opened up due to the opposition from within and without. But Nehemiah moved these mountains by faith: “I am carrying on a great project and cannot go down. Why should the work stop while I leave it and go down to you?” (Nehemiah 6:3) Nehemiah continually strengthened his vision with mountain-moving faith. By believing that God was on their side, Nehemiah and all the people were able to fight courageously and move every mountain into the sea by faith in God. The miracle happened that the wall could be completed and a holy people and an army of God could be raised.

I grew up as a second-generation missionary. I was like the fig tree or the temple, outwardly very holy. During the day, I attended all church activities. But during the night, I lived a double life by meeting girls and going to casinos. My spiritual father and shepherd, however, had faith in God and served me with Deuteronomy 6:5. I used to give all my time and strength to sin and to the world. However, with mountain-moving faith, Jesus' forgiving grace pierced into my soul. I made a decision of life to love God with all my heart, soul and strength. By His marvelous grace, God is now raising me to be one of the global spiritual leaders for His eternal work of salvation. God has chosen me, like Nehemiah, to be a shepherd and spiritual leader for the rebuilding of the broken spiritual walls in Europe. I believe that my almighty God will use me to empowering the next generation as a vast army for the spiritual revival in Europe.

Is the mobilization of the Next Generation possible or impossible? If you believe that God will revive our country and continent, it will be done for you. If you believe that God will open the doors for M-Mission, it will be done for you. Jesus said to his disciples, "Have faith in God! If anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in their heart but believes that what they say will happen, it will be done for them." Yes, the mobilization of the Next Generation to serve God as a vast army is possible. We have seen that God has raised up many of the Next Generation as servants of His Word, Bible teachers, and messengers, according to His promise in Exodus 19:5,6. God gave a medical doctor among the Next Generation a life decision with Ezra 7:10 to much rather devote himself to Bible study than to become a clinic director. We can see how God uses him as a source of blessing and qualified Bible teacher and fighter against the lies of philosophy and science. God has also mobilized a young man with Matthew 6:33 that he witnesses God's work and hope for the Next Generation in many churches in Europe as a global spiritual leader. Our God who moves mountains into the sea will use all of you as disciple-makers and influential spiritual leaders for His work.

Second: Faith prays. Let us read verse 24: "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." There is a big difference between just having strong expectations of someone and praying. Prayer is the expression of faith that one has already received what one is asking for. With their own strength, the disciples could do nothing. Apostle Peter slept while Jesus prayed kneeling in Gethsemane. However, after meeting the risen Lord, he was changed into a great man of prayer and a blessing for numerous people in Jerusalem and to the ends of the earth. Where God worked mightily, there was also the work of Satan. The high council imprisoned him and forbade him to continue preaching the message of Jesus. The church continued to form the unanimous prayer vessel. Their prayer of faith caused Peter to speak the word of God even more boldly and the community of the first Christians became a spiritual koinonia of love for the spreading of the name of Jesus.

St. Monica offered two prayers to God every day, morning and evening, by faith that God would save the lost soul of her son Augustine. The power of the prayer of faith caused him to receive a new life in Christ based on Romans 13:13,14 and henceforth

he used his body for the defense of the Gospel. He later testified to the fruit of his mother's prayer of faith: "I believe it was my mother's prayer that God gave me the spirit to want nothing, to think nothing, to love nothing but the truth alone..."

Do you believe that God is making the young people on campus a holy nation of 100,000 Bible teachers and 5 million prayer servants? Do you believe that God has placed 1 Abraham and 1 Sarah of faith on every campus? May God fill us with prayerful faith in the early morning prayers, in our house churches and on the campuses. Let us experience that we have already received from God what we ask Him for.

Third: Faith forgives. Let's read verse 25: "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Jesus fought to equip his disciples as shepherds for his flock, who would move many mountains into the sea through the power of prayer. But before they asked God for anything, they were to forgive if they had anything against anyone. The disciples, filled with the love of Christ, would lead many people to follow Jesus. At the same time, they would also experience much hatred and persecution. Nevertheless, Jesus promised them that if they forgave, they would serve the work of God influentially.

I know an outstanding man of prayer who served his Bible student for more than twenty years with forgiving faith. Thus, the student was not only able to graduate, but also grows as a shepherd and co-worker for the work of God. Forgiving faith caused a miracle in the life of a business administration student that God used him as an empowered messenger. Through his mother's forgiving faith, God uses him as a great man of faith who not only brings numerous young people to the ark of salvation, but will also make them global spiritual leaders.

How can we forgive? Let us look up to Jesus, who prayed: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing!" In our shepherd life, we get to know different kinds of people. Sometimes we think that we could forgive all people but just this one person. Let's read verse 25 again, "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive them, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." When we forgive someone, we ourselves receive forgiveness from God. Whoever condemns someone or reacts out of anger and emotionalism, the Spirit cannot dwell in him. Our Lord Jesus shed His holy blood for our neighbor. With the power of forgiving faith, let us serve all kinds of young people and raise them as disciples of Jesus and spiritual leaders for the work of God.

Let us look at verses 27-33. Jesus did not only serve his disciples, but also the religious leaders who persisted in unbelief. They wanted to catch Jesus in words, asking, "By what authority are you doing these things?" And who gave you authority to do this?" Jesus replied with a counter question so that they could receive God as Lord, "John's baptism—was it from heaven, or of human origin? Tell me!" Consider 12:1-27. In the parable of the tenants, Jesus revealed the rebellion of the religious

leaders so they would repent and acknowledge God's love and lordship. Jesus was further tempted by their question about paying the imperial tax to Caesar. He urged them, "Give back to Caesar what is Caesar's and to God what is God's." Jesus helped them to put aside their pursuit of their own material advantage and obey Caesar and God. He was then pressed by the Sadducees, who did not believe in the resurrection but put their hope in the world. Jesus admonished them, "Are you not in error because you do not know the Scriptures or the power of God?" He revealed himself to them as the God of the living and planted resurrection hope in their hearts.

Let us look at verses 28-34. One of the teachers of the law asked Jesus about the most important commandment. Jesus assured him that he is God, the Lord. The teacher of the law accepted that the Lord is one. Other teachers of the law thought Jesus was David's son and dragged him down to the human level (35-37). Jesus' heart was broken because of their unbelief. But he served them with God's word: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind and with all your strength.' 'Love your neighbor as yourself.'" (30,31) Let's read verses 38-44. Here Jesus teaches about God-pleasing worship. The offering of a poor widow who put everything into the temple treasury says that Jesus is the Lord to whom all our worship is due. In contrast, Jesus announces judgment to those who only have a form of godliness like the teachers of the law.

In chapters 11 and 12, Jesus revealed himself to his disciples and religious leaders as God, the Lord. Jesus is the Lord of the world. Instead of being overwhelmed by the godless spirit of the time, we may have faith in God and as rulers defeat the lies of the spirit of the time. Faith is the victory that overcomes the world. Faith moves mountains. Faith experiences the power of prayer and the power of forgiveness. "Have faith in God!" Because of our faith in God, we have authority to liberate campus students from the dominion of sin and make them a holy nation, that they may worship the Lord alone and co-work for His work.

II. The Second Coming of the Son of Man as Judge (13:1-37)

Let us look at verses 1-2. One of the disciples was dazzled by the outward splendor of the temple, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" But like the outwardly beautiful fig tree, this magnificent temple would be completely destroyed. Many people admire wealth, beauty and success and make these things their god. But Jesus testifies that he is the ruler of this world.

Let us look at verses 3-6. Here Jesus gave them warnings regarding the time of judgment: deceivers in the name of Jesus, false messiahs, wars, rumors of wars, earthquakes and famines. The disciples were not to be alarmed, but to hold fast to their faith in God. Let us look at verses 7-13. The disciples must suffer persecution: They will be handed over to the local councils, flogged in the synagogues, and brought before governors and kings. Jesus promises that they will preach the gospel in the midst of this persecution. The spreading of Jesus' name under persecution is

absolutely necessary, for all nations are to hear the gospel before the end comes (10). That is why Jesus encouraged the disciples to participate in the remaining suffering of Jesus and to preach the gospel to all nations by faith in God.

Let us read verse 13: "Everyone will hate you because of me, but the one who stands firm to the end will be saved." There are many people of God who persevered to the end despite the hatred of the world. Charles Spurgeon preached the gospel of Christ faithfully and tirelessly from the age of 15 until his death. In spite of sickness and slander, he served numerous lost souls with the Word of God. God blessed his life that even during his lifetime more than 900 disciples and messengers were trained. William Tyndale was even hated by the church and his work of Bible translation was hindered again and again. He was imprisoned and burned at the stake. But he became a blessed man and a blessing for all England and Europe because he fulfilled his mission to the end. We too may persevere to the end, laying down our lives as shepherds and Bible teachers for the salvation of the students. Since we faithfully serve the work of World Campus Mission to the point of death, we will be blessed and receive the crown of righteousness (2 Timothy 4:8).

Let us look at verses 14-23. Here Jesus prophesies such days of distress that even the elect will be deceived by false messiahs and false prophets. But the days are shortened for the elect. Finally, the final tribulation ends with the sun darkening and the moon losing its glow. The stars will fall from the sky and the heavenly bodies will be shaken. Jesus promises, "At that time people will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory." (26) Jesus will return as the judge. Then the believers will be rewarded. This world is full of adversaries who want to persecute the believers. But we may overcome this world by believing in Jesus the Judge that He will surely come again. Indeed, this world will pass away with all its things: "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will not pass away." (31) Those who adhere to Jesus and his words will be the victors in the end. Therefore, despite all obstacles, we may serve the gospel work in this world with confidence.

How should Jesus' disciples prepare for the coming of the Son of Man? Let's read verse 33: "Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come." Jesus encouraged them to hold fast to their faith in God at all times and to carry out their mission victoriously. Let us be alert until the Second Coming of our Lord by forming 10,000 one-to-one Bible study teams, conquering 1700 universities in Europe, and sending out 100,000 missionaries to all the world by 2041.

Today we have learned that Jesus is the Lord of all things: "The Lord needs it." Jesus is God, the Lord who moves mountains into the sea and hears our prayers of faith. He is the Lord who establishes His lordship even in the midst of a hostile environment. It is Jesus' heart's desire and prayer that you have mountain-moving, praying and forgiving faith in God. The Lord your God wants to empower you to fight against the lies of the godless spirit of the time by faith and confess Him as the Lord of this world. May God have mercy on you that until the return of the Lord, you have authority by faith in God to establish His lordship in the lives of the young people of this generation.

"Have faith in God!" God will surely bring about the spiritual revival in our nation and continent.

Let us read the key verse 11:22: „Have faith in God,” Jesus answered.“