

HAVE FAITH IN GOD!

Mark 11:1 – 13:37

Key verse 11:22

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered.

Thanks be to God for granting us the 2021 Spring Bible Conference this past weekend where we learned about Jesus' authority using the Gospel of Mark. In the first lesson, we learned that Jesus' authority comes from His hope for people, especially His hope for His disciples. In the second lesson, we learned that Jesus' authority came because of his shepherd's heart. In the third lesson, we reflected on his life as a ransom for many, from which authority came again. Finally, in the fifth lesson, we learned that Jesus' authority came because he was obedient to his Father until the end.

Today's fourth lesson is also about Jesus' authority. In this lesson, we learn that Jesus first entered Jerusalem as our King and Savior, and that this Jesus will one day return as our Judge. Jesus, through faith in God's authority, withstood the continuous attacks of the religious leaders and even challenged them to repent. He was able to do this because He is the owner and therefore ruler of this world. This lesson goes on to discuss Jesus' ownership, from which came the authority to cleanse the temple as a house of prayer. His disciples were also to receive authority through him to move the mountains that hindered the mission by faith. Instead of bearing beautiful leaves like the fig tree, Jesus challenges us to claim His dominion and authority through faith and bear fruits of life. We can pray and overcome doubts by faith. We may also forgive by faith. Let us learn faith at this time and bring one-on-one Bible study and disciple-making of a person as fruits to Jesus through faith.

1. The Entry of the Son of Man into Jerusalem as King and Savior (11:1-12:44)

Jesus was about to arrive from His final journey to Jerusalem because He would die there on the cross before the Passover. Therefore, the prophecy of Zechariah 9:9 was fulfilled that he would enter Jerusalem on the colt of a donkey. For this, however, Jesus first needed a colt. The

disciples were so poor that they did not own one of these beasts of burden. But the whole earth is Jesus' property. That is why we read in verses 1 and 2: "As they approached Jerusalem and came to Betphage and Bethany at the Mount of Olives, Jesus sent two of his disciples, 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." The disciples were to go to a nearby village and untie a colt. On the surface, this was stealing. But Jesus gave them verse 3 along the way, "If anyone asks you, 'Why are you doing this?' tell him, 'The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly.'" They were to say, "The Lord needs it." Jesus needed this donkey for his entry into Jerusalem. Since the whole earth is Jesus' property, it was not theft, but Jesus was just claiming his property. Jesus thus helped his disciples to believe in him the Creator God and to go in obedience of faith.

In fact, missionaries and shepherds in UBF are not particularly rich. Instead of living for gain in the world by moving here and there for a new job, they devote themselves to Bible study and disciple-making. But still, we are blessed by God. For example, God has entrusted this wonderful large center to us because He wants to raise up and educate many disciples of Jesus in it. Because the Lord needs this, He mobilized builders for it at that time, even without claiming wages, to help build. The disciples were to feed 5000 people plus women and children. But they had no money. But Jesus wanted to feed them and so 5 loaves and 2 fishes multiplied because this was for Jesus' mission. Jesus' word is also above our lives, "The Lord needs it." We may totally dedicate our lives to Jesus for His mission of the Two-Person Bible Study Ministry and, as we are promised in Matt. 6:33, trust Him to supply all that we need.

After clothes were put on the donkey, Jesus sat on it. The people went and got palm branches and threw them on the road in front of Jesus.

Let's look at verses 9 and 10: "Those who went ahead and those who followed shouted, "Hosanna! " "Blessed is he who comes in the name of the Lord!" "Blessed is the coming kingdom of our father David!" "Hosanna in the highest!" Jesus was welcomed like a king. The people proclaimed his kingdom. "Hosanna" goes on to mean "O Lord, help!" (Psalm 118) Jesus humbly entered Jerusalem as the helping King and Savior.

Normally, the kings of this world are brutal rulers who hold down their subjects. Normally, sin rules over a person's life and subjugates him. Jesus, however, is our humble Savior who is close to everyone because He rode on a lowly donkey. Jesus rules over our souls in meekness so that we may have peace. We may accept Jesus as our King who helps us.

Verse 11 tells how Jesus went into the temple afterwards and looked at everything carefully. He looked to see if the temple honored his Father. He did not act impulsively, however, but first went out with his twelve disciples to Bethany, where they used to pray.

The next day Jesus sees a fig tree on the road and looks for figs on it. But this one had only leaves. Jesus cursed this tree in verse 14: "Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it." The fig tree was like the temple, beautiful on the outside but actually corrupt and fruitless.

Let's read verses 15-17: "On reaching Jerusalem, Jesus entered the temple area 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, and would not allow anyone to carry merchandise through the temple courts. And as he taught them, he said, "Is it not written: " 'My house will be called a house of prayer for all nations'? But you have made it 'a den of robbers.'" The temple was to be a house of prayer for the nations. But the rulers had a wrong worldly mind. Therefore, they made the maximum profit from the temple. Thus, usury was practiced there, so that the nations could no longer come to God. Jesus was filled with holy anger about this. He fought and prayed to establish God's rule in the temple. He cleansed the temple with authority and restored it as a house of prayer for all nations. Verse 18 reports that the chief priests and scribes then wanted to kill him. The

motive for Jesus' murder was fear of Jesus' claim to rule and the resulting authority.

The new temple is Jesus. The new temple is also ourselves. 1 Corinthians 6:19 says about this, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own;" We are not to make of our bodies, or more precisely of our souls, a den of robbers, but to use our bodies as the place of worship of God. We may purify our hearts from worldly desires of people's approval, laziness and money and let it be a house of prayer alone. At this time, many young people are preoccupied with the Internet, computer games, contentless Gnostic books, external beauty and meaningless chatter. Sometimes this leads to these young people becoming completely absorbed by these things and unable to study for school or college. They make their souls impure and plunge their practical lives into misery as well. We must strive to purify our souls every day and let them be a house of prayer for the nations through personal spiritual struggle. Many young people torment themselves under their impurity. They would like to leave it, but they cannot. The secret to leaving impurity is to pray for our hearts to become a house of prayer for all nations and to want to devote our lives completely to God.

The next morning, they passed by the fig tree from the day before again. The disciples saw that it had withered to the root. Peter was greatly amazed in verse 21: "Peter remembered and said to Jesus, "Rabbi, look! The fig tree you cursed has withered!" When Peter saw the cleansing of the temple and how angry Jesus was about the fig tree bearing only leaves, he probably became very troubled about his own life. His heart began to beat faster and faster and he became seriously worried. There were no real fruits in his life either. Therefore, perhaps he identified himself with this fig tree and thought that he might be cursed by Jesus next. Indeed, in this world there are many outwardly successful people with many leaves who inwardly feel as if they are cursed, like that fig tree. But it is far from Jesus to curse Peter or any other person. Jesus wanted to bless the disciples through this event. Jesus' words had authority because he is the Creator God. Jesus wanted to pass on this mystery to his disciples that they could accept Jesus' lordship over their lives and this world and challenge God's work with authority through faith in God.

Let us read verse 22: "Have faith in God," Jesus answered." The secret of authority was faith in God. What does it mean to have faith in God? Our founding father M. Dr. Samuel Lee said that the emphasis of this word of God is on the "O" of God: "Have faith in God." We are not to have faith in ourselves like many people, but we need faith in God. Having faith in God means believing in God as our Creator, as we heard through the lecture "In the beginning was information" at the conference. Having faith means believing in Jesus' redemption from our sins through His one-time substitutionary death on the cross. To have faith is to trust that God is with us and that He is doing His work through us at this time.

In verses 23 to 25, Jesus explains this faith in more detail: we learn 1) faith that moves mountains 2) faith that prays and 3) faith that forgives. Let's take a closer look at these types of faith:

First, the mountain-moving faith. Let us read verse 23: "I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain, 'Go, throw yourself into the sea,' and does not doubt in his heart but believes that what he says will happen, it will be done for him." Faith means to believe that God moves mountains. Unbelief means to give up before a mountain: "This mountain is just too high. Well, there's nothing I can do." Often this unbelief hides laziness, that we don't want to apply ourselves by working diligently every day, as we learned from the talk on "laziness" at the conference. Accordingly, having faith in God means not being in doubt before a mountain, but believing that it will be moved. Therefore, through faith we may put the shovel to the mountain and move it shovel by shovel. Jesus says that all things are possible to him who believes (Mark 9:23).

We can learn this faith at a young age in our lives. For example, we can learn faith in school or college. In my studies, I despaired of the mathematics lectures. In fact, at the University of Bonn, these were so difficult that after the first two semesters, out of the 500 students I started studying with, only 30 were allowed to take the exam. I failed that exam. But when I tackled the mountain by faith in God's help with Mark 11:22, God blessed me in my daily struggle to overcome my laziness and move the mountain shovel by shovel, that is, practice task by practice task. I had so many doubts in my heart in the process. The laziness bothered me

so intensely. But it was God who helped me. He helped me to keep faith until the end and gave me with the great victory in my studies. In fact, little knowledge from my studies has remained in my mind. But faith in the almighty Creator God, who moves the mathematics mountains and all other mountains into the sea, accompanies me to this day. I am very grateful to God that our next generation also learned faith in God through their high school graduation at this time. This faith in God that challenges the mountain will accompany them throughout their lives and entrust them with victory in life.

But the true mountains that God desires us to move are not the mountains of our personal lives. They are the mountains that hinder the mission we have received from God. Our missionaries learned mountain moving faith in the pioneer phase. Raising a disciple of Jesus and then spiritual leader was like a mountain. Since the beginning, the work of UBF has not been a work of the masses, but the work of raising up a spiritual leader. However, it was said that in Germany it is easier to catch a bird with the bare hand than to lead someone to discipleship. So after four years, no one decided to follow Jesus. But the missionaries challenged that mountain by faith. Thus, the gigantic mountain of Abraham and Sarah of faith moved bit by bit until it was moved into the sea.

God will bless our faith and move the mountain of defeating humanism into the sea for setting up ladders for pioneering the 1700 campuses in Europe. We may hold on to it by faith and also serve our next generation by faith to be set up spiritually. God is the Lord of history! God is the Lord of this world!

Second, the faith that prays. Let's read verse 24: "Therefore I tell you, whatever you ask for in prayer, believe that you have received it, and it will be yours." If we live by our own strength, then we can do nothing at all. Once the disciples tried to heal a possessed boy with their own power when Jesus was not there. But they couldn't. Jesus rebuked their unbelief and also the father's unbelief. The father prayed that his unbelief might be healed (9:24). Jesus taught them that solely by praying they could cast out the evil spirits even of our time.

The installation of Peter as an apostle had been the answer to Jesus' prayer of faith. Peter had been an impossible disciple. He was fickle as sand and acted impulsively from his momentary

feeling. When Peter was finally able to build his life on the rock-solid love of Jesus, that is when he became the rock of the church and was able to lead it through the fiery times of persecution (John 21:15). He was an outstanding leader and preacher of the Word of God, so that once 3000 people came to believe in Jesus at the same time.

The history of Bonn UBF also happened through prayer. The missionaries served the work of God through the faith of prayer, praying faithfully in the early morning and also in the late evening. In all times, our center was full of the spirit of prayer. Because the staff prayed so intensely, sometimes people fell asleep from exhaustion during prayer. But God was moved by their heartfelt prayer. God sees our prayer and accepts it. Through it, God's arm is moved and God's history is written during this time. We may hold on to our prayer topics. In fact, our prayer topics are exceedingly great. We pray for 10,000 one-to-one Bible study teams, 100,000 missionaries, and 5,000,000 prayer workers. We pray for the pioneering of 1,700 campuses through one house church at a time. We pray for the spiritual revival of our continent. We also pray for three basecamps in the M world. Many churches have become sleepy over time and have forgotten their prayer topics. They are preoccupied with their own concerns. Some people say that you only have to pray once. We pray to God believing that God has already answered our prayer. Therefore, we may already give thanks for the answer to prayer during prayer. But praying does not mean to pray once, but to come to God again and again with the prayer topic and to pray persistently. By holding on to our prayer topics, we may be in the mainstream of God's history at this time.

God has told us to pray for the souls entrusted to us. Sometimes we stand before a sheep and think that he is hopeless. We try to deal with his request somehow. But it doesn't work. The sheep is too deeply stuck in his sinful habits. Perhaps he himself despairs under them. A young man was eager to experience victory in his life through Deep Work. But he lived only according to his momentary lust and not under the Lordship of God. Therefore, he frittered away his time and his studies in Koblenz did not go well either. But a house church began to pray for him with all their hearts. Out of prayer, they were able to encourage and challenge him again and again. Although the house church leader attended school only up to the 11th

grade and could never have attended a prestigious university like Koblenz University, he thus co-wrote his master's thesis in prayer, which is much more difficult than simply finishing the thesis quickly by himself. Through prayer, God has begun to work mightily in the heart of this one person. God Himself will transform him by accepting Jesus' lordship. God will raise him up as a good shepherd and Bible teacher through whom the blessing will flow on, as it did to Abraham, to many students with the same problems. God is the Lord of history! God is the Lord of this world!

Third, the faith that forgives. Let's read verse 25: "And when you stand praying, if you hold anything against anyone, forgive him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Last and highest, Jesus lists forgiving faith. Forgiving a person is more difficult than moving a mountain into the sea. The closer we live together, the faster we hurt each other. This is because we are not holy people, but sinners. Thus, there should actually be many heart wounds among Christians and the close fellowship should not be possible. However, it is possible because we have forgiving faith.

We can learn this forgiving faith by looking at Jesus. Jesus was nailed to the cross innocently. He bore all the pain and endured the sin of the world. But he was without hatred in his heart, but prayed "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing!" (Luke 23:34a) Stephen was able to look up to Jesus and pray, even at his stoning, "Lord, do not hold this sin against them." (Acts 7:60) This faith developed authority in the heart of Saul, who stood by, so that God thereby inwardly prepared the greatest apostle who took the Gospel to the whole world. We may lead people to repentance by having forgiving faith toward them. Forgiving faith has supreme power. The hatred in our heart is like a bitter root which determines our life and which we should pull out quickly (Hebrews 12:14,15). But if we pray and forgive, we can become free from it. We pray and forgive by looking to the fact that our neighbor has already been forgiven by Christ and we are actually much worse sinners than he is. We forgive by trusting in the justice of God. Jesus is the Lord of history! Jesus is the Lord of the world!

Let's read verse 22 again together, "Have faith in God," Jesus answered!" God bless you with mountain-moving, prayerful, forgiving faith! Je-

Jesus is the Lord of history! Jesus is the Lord of the world! Amen!

After Jesus taught faith to His disciples, the religious leaders wanted to bring Him down because they did not want to establish the obedience of faith in their hearts. But Jesus even boldly challenged them to repentance by passing on to them the parable of the wicked husbandmen, in which they could find themselves. They also tempted him by asking if they should pay taxes to Caesar. Jesus answered clearly that we should give to Caesar what belongs to him and to God our heart and life. The Sadducees asked a foolish question about the resurrection. But Jesus challenged them to have resurrection faith by rebuking them harshly, "You are greatly mistaken." (12,27)

One of the scribes was more understanding than the other scribes. He asked Jesus what the highest commandment was, and Jesus answered with the commandments to love God and neighbor. The scribe realized that Jesus had answered correctly. Other scribes wanted to put Jesus down by arguing about his origin. But Jesus clearly testified on the basis of Scripture that he had been before David, but was still his Son. Jesus warned his disciples about the hypocritical scribes. Finally, he lifted up a widow who put all her possessions into God's box. Many people give some of their abundance. But the widow gave her whole life. God is very pleased with those who give their lives to Jesus.

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

The last chapter of today's text is about the end times as the disciples were to face them. The disciples were blinded by the beautiful temple that glittered in the sun with its gold. That's why one of Jesus' disciples cried out in verse 1b, "Look, Teacher! What massive stones! What magnificent buildings!" But verse 2 says, "Do you see all these great buildings?" replied Jesus. "Not one stone here will be left on another; every one will be thrown down." This prophecy was actually fulfilled through the Romans when they believed that gold might be hidden among the stones and took down the temple stone by stone. We are not to be blinded by the world. Jesus announced the signs of the end times in verses 5 to 8: Deceivers, false Christs, wars, war cries, earthquakes and famines. Meanwhile, the disciples were to hold on to their faith instead of becoming fearful.

What is the reward of preaching the gospel? Let's look at verse 9: "You must be on your guard. You will be handed over to the local councils and flogged in the synagogues. On account of me you will stand before governors and kings as witnesses to them." The reward is that the disciples will be persecuted and dragged before courts. But before the courts they will bear witness to Jesus. Verse 10 says when this will happen, "And the gospel must first be preached to all nations." The world will not end until the gospel is preached to all nations and to every man. In fact, the persecutions are a response to the preaching of the gospel by the disciples. The disciples teach the gospel with the authority of God, so everyone has to choose: Either he accepts the gospel or he rebels against it. Because people rebel, the end times will become worse and worse in labor pains. The Holy Spirit helps us to persevere through these end times. In verse 11 we read that it is He who will speak for us. There will be a great lack of love. But if we will persevere to the end, Jesus promises in verse 13, we will be blessed. In verses 14 to 23, Jesus prophesies such tribulation that even the elect will be deceived. 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 powers of the heavens will be shaken. Verse 26 promises us, "At that time men will see the Son of Man coming in clouds with great power and glory." Jesus will come again as a judge. This world is full of adversaries who want to persecute and hold down believers. But believers will experience their just reward for all their devotion in this world on the Last Day. Jesus was able to overcome all tribulation far and wide and serve His disciples and people with authority, knowing that He will be the judge of this world. We too can overcome this world with authority by looking at the Judge Jesus and believing in Him that He will surely come again. Indeed, this world is stored up for the fire. Verse 31 says about this, "Heaven and earth will pass away, but my words will never pass away." Those who hold on to Jesus and His words will be the victors in the end. Therefore, we may serve the gospel work with confidence and in authority in this world despite all obstacles.

Jesus admonishes us in verse 33: "Be on guard! Be alert! You do not know when that time will come." We are to be watchful because we

do not know the hour when Jesus will return. It is like a householder who went out of the country and we do not know when he will return. Jesus is the householder of this world. That is why we are to watch at all times.

Today we have come to know Jesus as King, Savior and Judge. He humbly entered Jerusalem on a colt of a donkey. But he will come again on the last day in the midst of tribulation as the judge on the clouds.

We have also learned about his authority that comes from his rule and faith. We have learned the faith that moves mountains, that prays and that forgives. Let us receive the authority of Jesus that produces fruits of faith on our lives. Let us not be satisfied with leaves but live victorious lives by faith in the line-up of leaders, fruitful pioneering works and M-mission.