

Have faith in God!

Mark 11:1-25

Key verse 11:22

"Have faith in God," Jesus answered.

Last week we learned about the power of God's Word. Through one person who prophesies God's Word and prays, young people are raised up like dead bones into an exceedingly great army. We have seen this in the last 41 years of our mission work. We thank the Lord who is also raising up an exceedingly great spiritual army for spiritual revival and world mission today through the power of His Word.

In today's lesson, Jesus is preparing His entry into Jerusalem. Through this, Jesus revealed himself as God and the Lord of the world. He empowered the disciples as leaders by teaching them the faith that moves mountains, prays and forgives. As we begin the winter term, let us take Jesus' authority deeply by reflecting on Jesus' command, "Have faith in God!" I pray that we may fight for spiritual revival in Germany and Europe by faith and experience God's authority in this generation by faith.

1. The Lord needs it (1-19)

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 the counsel of God, Jesus was to be condemned to death, mocked, scourged, and killed, and after three days rise again. It was five days before his death on the cross. Even in this tribulation, Jesus continued to focus on making disciples by helping two disciples witness to Jesus as Lord of the world by preparing together for the entry into Jerusalem.

Let's 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?" tell him, "The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly." Jesus told the disciples to untie a colt and bring it to Jesus. At first, this sounded like a very strange command, for the donkey did not belong to the disciples. But Jesus told them exactly what to say to the people in the village: "The Lord needs it and will send it back here shortly."

Let's look at verses 4-6. The disciples worked well with Jesus, doing as Jesus had commanded them. As Jesus had predicted, the people asked them, "Why are you doing this?" The disciples echoed Jesus' word, "The Lord needs it." They must have been surprised that the people let them take the colt. The fact that both the disciples and the people in the village listened to Jesus' word, "The Lord needs it," shows that Jesus is the Lord of the world. He was Lord over the donkey, over the disciples, and over the people standing there. It was the work of God that they prepared Jesus' entry into Jerusalem through the obedience of faith.

Today too, God does His work through those who acknowledge Jesus as Lord of the world and place everything, even their lives at His disposal, hearing Jesus' call: "The Lord needs it". It is God's great blessing for us who have been saved by the blood of Jesus to put our lives at the disposal of our Lord Jesus. After his successful graduation from the University of Bonn, a missionary made a decision of faith to give his life for the Lord Jesus.

He led many students to study the Bible and ministered to them through early morning prayer, Bible study and life fellowship so that they grew into the spiritual leaders who now activate young people for the Lord themselves.

We have a very precious heritage of faith from great men and women of faith in the history of God such as Dietrich Bonhoeffer, Charles Spurgeon, George Verwer, Hudson Taylor and many more. They all made themselves available to Jesus in their youth and college years. We, the Next Generation and all of us, have the precious privilege of accepting Jesus as Lord of our lives and living for the Lord in our youth. When I did not make my life available to Jesus, I lived a miserable life in sin and in the lusts of gambling and women. But when I put my life at the disposal of Jesus, I experienced God's healing power from sins and can now co-work with God for the mobilization of the Next Generation and for world mission. Therefore, we may also encourage the young people on campus through the Bible study also through the Mustard Seed Fellowship again and again to give their lives to Jesus in their youth and to cooperate with Jesus.

Let us look at verses 7-10. Jesus sat down on the colt. Many spread their garments and green 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!" The cry "Hosanna" comes from the Psalm and means, "O Lord, help!" What people needed then, as now, was God's help, salvation from their sins. No one could solve their real problem, which was the sin problem. Not even the most powerful emperor. Only Jesus, who came to Jerusalem on a donkey, is the true helper of the people. Praise Jesus, our King and Savior from our sins.

Let's look at verses 11 to 13. After entering Jerusalem, Jesus went into the temple and looked around. Since it was getting late, he went back to Bethany with his disciples. The next day Jesus saw a fig tree that had only leaves but no fruit. Let's look at verse 14:

"Then he said to the tree, "May no one ever eat fruit from you again." And his disciples heard him say it." Jesus cursed the fig tree for not bearing fruit. The fact that it was not the time for figs did not matter to Jesus. Jesus said in John 15:2, "He cuts off every branch in me that bears no fruit, while every branch that does bear fruit he prunes so that it will be even more fruitful." The fig tree represents the temple and the religious leaders who outwardly lived a pious life of faith, but inwardly were corrupt and fruitless.

Let us read verses 15 to 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 became a den of robbers by those who sought material advantage. Then Jesus was filled with holy wrath. He cleansed the temple and restored it as a house of prayer for all nations.

Jesus' prayer topic for the temple was to be a house of prayer for all nations. Jesus wants the Christian life to be a house of prayer for all nations, that is, for world mission. Jesus is saddened when Christians instead live a self-centered, petty faith life only for the betterment of conditions. Spiritual authority does not come from conditions or abilities, but from fighting for "a house of prayer for all nations" with a prayer request. We were privileged to experience God's action and God's help last year as we worked to mobilize the Next Generation as global spiritual leaders and for world missions in the midst of the pandemic and challenge. God bless you in this winter term 2021/22 to live with spiritual authority as an exceedingly great spiritual army and prayers for world mission.

2. Have faith in God! (20-25)

Let's look at verses 20 and 21. When they passed by the fig tree again, the disciples noticed that it had withered to the root. Peter remembered how Jesus had cursed the fig tree the day before. He was amazed that it had died completely within a day. Now Jesus helped His disciples to do not alone deeds like the one with the fig tree (Mt 21:21), but to do even greater works with spiritual authority.

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. To have faith in God is to trust that God is all-mighty. Having faith means trusting that we can do nothing, but God can do everything, even accomplishing his mighty work through each of us at this time.

In verses 23 to 25, Jesus explains this faith in three points:

First, faith moves mountains

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." Jesus wanted his disciples to be fishers of men, shepherds for the flock of sheep, and life-giving servants of God (1:17; 6:37; 10:45). Their mission to make a man a disciple of Jesus was like an immovable mountain. But with undoubting faith in God, they would experience the mountain moving faith and throw it into the sea.

The prophet Ezekiel stood before a huge mountain when he was in a vast field full of withered bones. He challenged this mountain by prophesying God's word to the dead bones: "You withered bones, hear the word of the LORD!" Another mountain piled up before him: The bodies were still lifeless. But Ezekiel did not doubt, but prophesied to the breath. Again he faced a great mountain, for the Israelites could see absolutely no hope after the destruction of the temple and the city. But when Ezekiel faithfully prophesied

the Word of God, all these mountains were moved, so that God's Spirit made them alive again and they stood up as an exceedingly great army. With Ezekiel's mountain-moving faith, we may continue to share God's Word with our Bible students and children and experience how God is making them an army of God for world mission.

In my own life, I see that a mountain was thrown into the sea. I grew up as a child of missionaries and participated in church life, but secretly I led a double life. Through sinful relationships with women and visiting gambling houses, I made myself and others very unhappy. My shepherd, however, had faith to move the mountain of my pleasure seeking mentality and sin into the sea. He ministered to me continuously with the Word of God, especially from Deut. 6:5: "Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your strength." The absolute love of Jesus filled my heart with great joy and gratitude that I made a decision of a lifetime to love God with all my heart, soul and strength. My Almighty God changed me into a shepherd and Bible teacher in the midst of temptation and into a main person for His eternal work of salvation.

The spiritual mobilization of the Next Generation in the midst of the humanist and genderist zeitgeist is a great spiritual challenge. Many have already given up. But God's servant did not give up, but challenged this mountain by shoveling faith: "Have faith in God!" "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." The spiritual mobilization of the Next Generation happened when God's servants and their parents did not doubt, but passed on God's Word through Bible study, testimony fellowship, early morning prayer, baptism Bible study, testimony writing, Inductive Bible Study (IBS), Question-Making Workshop (QMW), Global Leadership Empowerment Forum (GLEF), master classes, and leadership seminars, thereby spiritually scooping. Through this, God mobilized five teenagers last year to take hold of God's blessing in

their teenage years, that they would not let their lives be guided by their egos, but would cooperate with their parents for the work of God and suffer cheerfully with Christ. Yes, the mobilization of the Next Generation is possible. We may mobilize the Next Generation through the intense spiritual life and word fellowship that they are set up as the global spiritual leaders for the work of God in Europe, America, CIS countries, the Middle East and worldwide.

Second: Faith 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." Prayer is the expression of faith that you have already received what you ask for. Jesus not only spoke God's word, but he also prayed, just as Ezekiel prayed to the breath of God. Jesus healed a boy who was possessed by an evil spirit. Afterward, he told his disciples, "This kind cannot go out by anything but praying." Before his ascension, Jesus gave the Great Commission to his disciples. They were only twelve people. But Jesus prayed for them with the faith that they would be used as His witnesses to the ends of the earth.

St. Augustine's mother, Monica, prayed twice a day, morning and evening, believing that God would save her son's lost soul. On the basis of Romans 13:13,14, the latter received the new life in Christ and henceforth used his body for the defense of the Gospel. He later testified to the fruit of the 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..."

I know a Bible teacher who prayed for a sheep through faith and served him with Bible study. In this way, this student experienced God's help that he finally completed his studies successfully. Most importantly, he grew as a Bible teacher and preacher who proclaimed God's hope and vision for this generation at the 41st Jubilee with Ezekiel 37:10. God will surely, through the prayer of faith, entrust him with the suitable home and

job and use him as an influential defender of the gospel.

Today, 31 years ago, Germany was reunited. It was the wonderful work through the power of prayer, through the prayers for peace in the Nikolai Church in Leipzig and through numerous prayer workers all over the world. Do you believe that God will also make the reunited Germany a shepherd nation? May God fill us with praying faith, in the morning, in the house church and on campus, so that we may 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 him, so that your Father in heaven may forgive you your sins." Jesus set an example of forgiving faith by praying on the cross by faith for sinners, for us: "Father, forgive them; for they do not know what they are doing!" Apostle Peter denied Jesus three times. At the decisive moment, he said in front of a little maid, "I don't know Jesus." Peter had already given up on himself, but Jesus did not give up on him. Jesus visited him and helped him build his life by faith on his absolute love and forgiving grace, asking him three times, "Do you love me?" Jesus' forgiving love led him to repentance and changed him into a shepherd for the early church and a witness of Jesus for world mission.

Saul, a cruel persecutor of the church, thought he was doing God a favor. Many believers gave up on Saul. But the risen Lord Jesus visited his persecutor on the way to Damascus and invited him with forgiving faith: "Saul, Saul, why are you persecuting me? ... I am Jesus whom you persecute." Saul repented of his false zeal and became Paul. The forgiving faith of Jesus changed the life of the persecutor of Christians 180 degrees, that he, as a chosen instrument of God, carried the name of Jesus to the Gentiles and to the ends of the earth.

Praise Jesus, who set a good example for us, so that we too may lead the students on campus to repentance through the Word of God.

With love leading to repentance, we may serve them that they may receive the forgiveness grace of Jesus and be preciousely used as witnesses of grace and spiritual leaders like Apostle Peter and Apostle Paul.

Crucial to the revival and renewal of our country are spiritual leaders who have faith in God. Is revival possible? Yes! Revival is possible because one person, Samuel, does not live like an ordinary medical man, but lives by faith with his spiritual identity and spiritual heritage. Revival is possible because one person, Sarah, lives with Genesis 17:15,16 as a mother of faith and participates with joy in the suffering of Jesus. Faith throws the mountains into the sea. Faith always gives victory! Faith always gives victory! O glorious victory of faith that conquers every enemy! "Have faith in God!" Through faith in God, we have authority to raise up 12 disciples of Jesus at each campus this winter term and mobilize them to work together for the work of God.

Today we learned that Jesus is the Lord of the world. It is the greatest blessing that we may give our lives to him in our youth: "The Lord needs it." Jesus is the Lord who throws into the sea the mountains of humanism and spiritual revival of young people through the shoveling faith to prophesy the Word of God, and through the prayer of faith and faith leading to repentance. "Have faith in God!" Our God is moving the mountain that spiritual revival will surely be brought about in our country and continent. Let us read again the key verse 22: "Have faith in God," Jesus answered."