

2026-05-10

Making the Impossible Possible

Mark 11:22-26

On Sunday afternoons at 4:00 p.m. we have our evening Bible study. Part of our time is given to answering questions people have, mainly about the sermon or the mornings' Bible study, although your questions could be about anything Bible related. Last Sunday night we had a very good discussion related to prayer and faith. It caused me to do a lot more praying and researching the topic, especially with the scripture that we have today about forgiveness. So, if you have questions or insights that you would like to share, you are welcome to come this afternoon at 4:00 p.m. and share them. As I grow in my prayer life and my walk with the Lord, there are three verses that I believe are key in this area. First, Mark 10:27 "*With men it is impossible, but not with God; for **with God all things are possible.***" Second, 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.***" I know atheists believe that there is no God. If that were actually true, there would be nothing. No planets, no people, no life at all. Only with God are all things possible and without Him you can do nothing. These two truths are important in prayer and in living. We need God in all we do. The third one is 1 John 5:14 "*Now this is the confidence that we have in Him, that if we ask anything **according to His will, He hears us.***" It is important that we learn to pray according to God's will. Too often we have developed our prayer life around what we want, around our own will and not around the will of God. Learn to pray, not my will, but Your will be done (Mark 12:36).

This lesson on prayer that Jesus is giving His disciples began because of a prayer Jesus prayed. It may not have sounded like a prayer when He said it, but it was. Maybe we need to be more careful with the statements that we make (Matthew 11:36-37). Jesus cursed the fig tree because it was not bearing fruit. The fig tree was a symbol of the nation of Israel. From Jesus' statement in John 15:5, the nation was not abiding in Jesus. They were not believing in Jesus. They rejected Him. They bore no fruit. Their purpose was to bear fruit and they were not. So, Jesus pronounced the curse. The disciples were shocked to see the fig tree withered so quickly. Within the lifetime of most of the disciples the nation of Israel would be destroyed. The temple would be completely torn apart.

Jesus taught the disciples to "*Have faith in God*" as they lived through this terrifying experience. I would guess that most of the disciples, as they watched and lived through the destruction of Jerusalem they prayed, they asked God not to let this happen, although it did. Unfortunately, there will come a time in this world that most

countries if not all countries will turn away from God and His design for life. Nations and peoples will embrace a lifestyle that is contrary to what God has designed. They call it progressive. It is not. *“There is nothing new under the sun”* (Ecclesiastes 1:9). The same sinful things were happening in Noah’s day. The difference in our day is that the nations will follow the antichrist. These nations and peoples will reject the gospel of God’s salvation. As God did in Egypt, to the Egyptians He will do again to the world. God wanted to get people out of their bondage to sin. He brought 10 plagues upon the Egyptians so that Pharaoh and the Egyptians would know who is really God (Exodus 7:5).

There will come a time when God will pour out His wrath upon this world again because of its sinfulness. His wrath will come through the opening of seven seals and the blowing of seven trumpets. God will cause all this to happen to get people to repent of their sins and turn and follow Him, the Living God. Many will die. Most of those who survive will not heed God’s call. They will continue in their destructive relationships and behaviors. (Revelation 9:20-21). If we happen to go through some terrifying experiences like these, what are we to do? Should we pray and ask God to stop it all? Even if you did, He will not. His will will be done. How are we to respond? As Jesus taught the disciples who lived through the destruction of their nation. *“Have faith in God”* (Mark 11:22). No matter what happens, have faith in God! Trust Him to do His will, to accomplish His purpose in people’s lives. Have faith in God especially when we do not understand why things are happening the way they are. Have faith in God. Trust Him and walk in His ways. Do not follow the ways of the world. Be diligent to follow God’s teachings.

Then Jesus told the disciples, *“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.”* Some people take this symbolically. Some take it literal. However you take it, you must take it with God’s other statements. *“With God all things are possible.”* *“Without Me you can do nothing.”* No one should think they can step up and be God and tell a mountain what to do according to their own will. We are not God. Without God our words have no power. We are to know that **there are things in life that are impossible that only God can make possible**. Have you ever heard of anyone in your lifetime moving mountains with only words. I have not. If it was ever to happen, I would think it would make the news. I have never read about any historical account where someone spoke and moved mountains with their words. I do know of many people who, through their faith in God have overcome huge problems and God removed huge mountainous problems out of their lives. The next verse helps us understand what Jesus is saying.

“Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them, and you will have them” (Mark 11:24). Do you know that one of the most impossible things that we desperately need that only God can make possible in your life is the forgiveness of your sins. *“Whatever things you ask when you pray, believe that you receive them.”* God has made this most impossible thing possible by a simple, heartfelt request. *“God, be merciful to me a sinner!”* (Luke 18:13). God, forgive me. For God, moving mountains, calming storms, walking on water are all simple things. To forgive our sins, well, God had to leave heaven and take on human flesh. He had to live a perfect life in His thoughts, in His words and in His deeds. He had to willingly be punished for our sins. He had to willingly, in love for us, sacrifice His life for us. He had to willingly die in our place for our sins. Then three days later, He had to rise from the dead in His resurrected body. This is totally impossible for us to do. Only with God is our salvation from the punishment of our sins possible.

Why did God do this for us? Because He loves us! He loves you! He loves every person in the world. Every person in this world is a sinful person. They have sinned against God. They have broken His commands. We all deserve eternal punishment. It is totally impossible for any person to save themselves. No matter how good they can be, they cannot be perfect. Only God is perfect. Only God can save us. And He did. *“God demonstrated His own love toward us in that while we were still sinners, Christ died for us. Much more then, having now been justified by His blood, we shall be saved from wrath through Him”* (Romans 5:8-9). Understanding our great need for forgiveness and the great cost God paid for our forgiveness is very important as we seek to live for God. Just as we have done wrong things towards God, there will be times that we will do wrong things towards people and people will do wrong things towards us. Just as God has forgiven us, we are to forgive others.

Jesus continued teaching His disciples on prayer and on living in this world. He focused on the most important topic of all, **forgiveness**. If we do not understand how important it is for us to receive God’s forgiveness, and what it cost Him, then we will not understand how important it is for us to forgive other people as God forgave us. Jesus told the disciples, *“And whenever you stand praying, if you have anything against anyone, forgive him, that your Father in heave may also forgive you your trespasses”* (Mark 11:25). Some people stood to pray. Other people knelt to pray. However you pray, when you are praying and God reminds you of something you have against someone, forgive them. Do not ignore what God wants to do in your life. He wants to free us from a burden. He wants to free us from a wrong attitude towards someone. He wants to change our life and it happens when we willingly forgive people as God has forgiven us. The true beginning point of faith in Jesus is found in forgiving others. God forgiving us and in turn, we forgive others.

Verse 26 *“But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father in heaven forgive your trespasses.”* This is another one of those shocking statements. Does Jesus really mean, if we do not forgive other people, He will not forgive us? I do not think I want to try this to find out. What type of person would we be if we never forgave anyone for anything, yet expected God to totally forgive us when we stood before Him? Someone will think, I will forgive everyone but him or her. Can you limit that unforgiving attitude to one person or will it take root in your life so you add more people to your “will not forgive” list? I would take Jesus at His word. Forgiveness is central to Christianity. We need to recognize we have sinned against God and we need His forgiveness for everything in order to have life. God’s forgiveness comes through the demonstrated action of Christ dying on the cross. His forgiveness continues as He actively seeks to have a loving relationship with us.

Jesus illustrated what the kingdom of heaven is like after Peter asked Jesus, *“Lord, how often shall my brother sin against me, and I forgive him? Up to seven times?”* (Matthew 18:21). Peter thought he was being generous. Jesus said, not seven times but *“seventy times seven”* (18:22). If you are counting, you are not really forgiving.

Even if you could speak many languages, or had all the knowledge to understand all mysteries and all prophecies, even if you had the faith to move mountains, if you gave all your possessions away to feed the poor or sacrificed your life, if you do not do these things in love, there is no profit to you (1 Corinthians 13:1-3). Your love for God is seen by your willingness and ability to forgive others. There is no greater love and no greater way to show your love for God than by forgiving others the way God forgave you. He forgave us totally and completely. We will not receive any punishment for any of our sins. Then God gives us His Spirit to live in us. Just as God is forgiving, God’s Spirit is forgiving and wants us to be forgiving. Forgiving others in love shows the world that the Spirit of God is living in us. Be Forgiving.

Questions to ask yourself: Do you have anything against someone? Has someone sinned against you? Do you need to forgive someone?

Actions to take: Know all that God has done to forgive you. Know His great love for you. Show that ‘someone’ or those ‘someones’ Gods great love. Forgive them.

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Our mission statement: **Spread the gospel of Jesus Christ;
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