



The Lord's Mountain Mover's **NEWSLETTER**

"If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move; and nothing will be impossible to you." (Matt. 17:20)

January 2014

Issue 01-14

Greetings to all my brothers and sisters in the Lord. As I sat down and contemplated what it was that God wanted me to share with you, He brought to mind a parable that He had given me several years ago. I had found myself busy doing and saying the things I felt were needed in the lives of those who I was ministering to. So let me share with you what God shared with me.

The Parable of the Faithful Minister

There was a certain young man who began hanging out with a group of other men his own age. These men were always partying and drinking. The young man had never been inclined to this type of lifestyle, yet over time, he began to follow after their ways. One day they all agreed to get together and go on a cruise ship. This is where the young man met with disaster.

On the second evening of the cruise, after a full day of drinking and having a good time, the young man ventured to the upper deck of the ship for some fresh air. Leaning over the railing he lost his balance and fell into the ocean, unnoticed by anyone around him. He yelled for help after surfacing, but nobody heard him, and the ship cruised off into the distance, leaving him all alone. He continued to try and stay afloat, fighting against the cold water and the fear that was overcoming him.

Shortly after sunrise a man in a small boat noticed the young man in the water and came to him. The young man had been in the water for hours and was exhausted to the point where he could barely speak. The man in the boat leaned over the side and began to tell the young man about the effects of hypothermia, how the cold water will affect the body's ability to function. How the heart begins to slow down and eventually the person dies. He also told him about the benefits of a neoprene wetsuit, how it could help fight against the effects of the cold water. Lastly, he explained that a life jacket would help him stay afloat and save his energy. Then the man in the boat motored off to where he was headed.

Several hours later a second small boat noticed the young man floating in the water and he also came to him. When he arrived there, he too leaned over and began to talk with the young man. He began to tell him that the reason he was in this situation was because he had been hanging around the wrong crowd. That partying and drinking all the time never turned out well. He told him that he should choose his friends better and think about his actions. He asked why he had not paid attention to the signs on the railing of the ship, warning people not to lean over. This man then motored off to where he was headed.

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The young man in the water was nearing his death. The affects of the cold water, lack of strength and hopelessness were taking over. He was about to give up when a third small boat came to him. When the boat arrived the man leaned over, and without saying a word, pulled the young man into his boat. He dried him off, got him some warm clothing, and wrapped him in a blanket. He gave him some water, food, and made him feel comfortable. When the young man began to regain his senses the man in the boat started to talk with him. He asked him what had happened and how he had come to be in this situation. He also asked him how he could help, and what he might need of him. The two of them then motored off to dry land.

Which of these three ministered to the young man's needs?

Although the first two men spoke the truth and gave the young man valuable information, neither ministered to his immediate needs. They both possessed the truth, but knew not how or where to apply it. They both had agendas, but they were misguided. They were both being lead, but not by God.

Ephesians 2:10 says, "*For we are His (God's) workmanship, created in Christ Jesus for good works, which God prepared beforehand so that we would walk in them.*"

Proverbs 15:23 and 25:11 say, "*A word spoken in due season, how good it is!*" and "*A word fitly spoken is like apples of gold in settings of silver.*"

As we embark on this New Year, let's be mindful of our ministering to others. Let's remember that it is God's work we should be doing and not our own. That He is the one who has foreordained the works that we should be doing. If we are doing our work, His work is being left undone. Let's also remember that what we say, how we say it, and when we say it matters too. Most of us have had someone say the right thing at the wrong time and been hurt and not helped by it. Sometimes we can get so full of, "good advice," we end up having no, "God advice."

May our heavenly Father guide us in all wisdom and understanding. May we walk in His will for our life and the lives of those he brings to us. Let us be effective ministers of the gospel of grace and mercy, glorifying and honoring the God who saved us for His purpose and not our own. God be with you all and may He supply your every need as you minister to those within His kingdom and share the good news with those outside. Amen.

Please feel free to contact us, using the information at the bottom of each page, and share any prayers you have for yourself or others. Also, feel free to request an emailed copy of the monthly newsletter, or if you do not have email, you can have one mailed to you free of charge. We would love to hear from you and look forward to hearing what God is doing in your life.

Pastor Pete



In His service

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THE WORD IN MOTION message

How do I become who I am supposed to be? (Part 3 of 3) “THE SOLUTION”

In the previous two issues we have been looking into the parable of the Pharisee and the Tax Collector in Luke 18:9-14. In Part 1 we looked at “The Problem”, which is one of self-perception, and we asked the question, “Who am I, really?” We examined the attitude of the Pharisee in the parable which I called, status by negation; in other words, finding fault in others so we can feel better about ourselves. The world would say, “I am glad I am not like so-and- so.” The white-washed Christian version goes something like this, “There but by the grace of God go I.” I think it’s something we’ve all been guilty of at one time or another, in one way or another. Lastly, we discussed the reality that God is our ultimate Judge and there will come a day in all our lives, when we will have no one to compare ourselves to, as we stand there all alone before God. So, there-in lies the problem.

In Part 2, entitled, “The Standard”, we asked the question, “Who am I really supposed to be?” To avoid any misunderstanding, and so we could all be on the same page, we used God’s word as our ultimate authority on the issue. Our focus was on the passage written to the church in Corinth (1 Cor. 12:12-21) who were obviously dealing with serious divisional issues (1 Cor. 1:10-13, 11:17-22). The two main attitudes that were prevalent were; the “Less-than” attitude, and the “Better-than” attitude. The Apostle Paul sternly, but lovingly, dismissed these two attitudes as not only ridiculous, but unacceptable within the body of Christ. In doing this Paul established a *standard of equality* among the body of believers, not only for the church in Corinth, but for all of God’s churches, for all times. So far, we have been presented with; “The Problem” (Part 1), “The Standard” (Part 2), and now we are left with the last logical question, “How do I become who I am supposed to be?”

Before we answer that question, let’s review our Scripture for this study.

And He also told this parable to some people who trusted in themselves that they were righteous, and viewed others with contempt: “Two men went up into the temple to pray, one a Pharisee and the other a tax collector. The Pharisee stood and was praying this to himself: ‘God, I thank you that I am not like other people: swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or even like this tax collector, I fast twice a week; I pay tithes of all that I get.’ But the tax collector, standing some distance away, was even unwilling to lift up his eyes to heaven, but was beating his breast, saying, “God, be merciful to me, the sinner!’ I tell you, this man went to his house justified rather than the other; for everyone who exalts himself will be humbled, be he who humbles himself will be exalted.” (Luke 18:9-14)

Remember, I said in Part 1, that the main point and purpose of this parable is justification before God. We’ve dissected the self-justification of the Pharisee as he stood in the temple praying (to himself) before God. Hopefully, we all came to the same conclusion that this is not the way to be justified before God, that it is not only not the solution to the problem, it is the problem! So, we are left with one other example in this parable to get our answer as to how we can become justified before God. How we may become who we are meant to be; “our solution.”

I want us to key in on the language of these two men in the temple. The Pharisee was focused on the things he did, or didn’t do, in his life. He only saw himself in the light of externalism, those things which other men might recognize about him. Things that might bring him praise before men, but not before

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God. He lacked any form of humility whatsoever. I can picture the image he might have had in his mind while he was saying these things to himself. There he was standing arm in arm with God, looking down at this pathetic appalling little tax collector. One of the worlds many reprobates crying and groveling in God's temple. What a waste of precious temple space. Why wasn't there a different place for them, somewhere out of sight of people, like us?

Now let's look at the language of the tax collector. The only thing he had to say was, "*God, be merciful to me, the sinner!*" Do you see the difference? Do you see how the tax collector wasn't focused on his deeds, but in who he was? He was bringing neither his good works for recognition, nor was he asking God to forgive him of his sins. He was just crying out to God for mercy for who he was, a sinner, and he knew that he deserved God's judgment. He must have known that the good things he had accomplished were of no value, they couldn't justify him before God. He also must have known that merely asking God to forgive him of the sins he had committed wouldn't change who he was. I believe he knew that the only way for him to be fully justified before God was to acknowledge who he was, so God would change him.

Jesus taught us that a good tree cannot bear bad fruit and a bad tree cannot bear good fruit. Bad fruit comes from a bad tree and good fruit from a good tree. He also taught us that a branch abiding in the True Vine (Jesus) will produce much fruit. Fruit that is worthy of the vine it abides in.

Asking God to forgive our sins doesn't change who we are. Just like pulling the apples off an apple doesn't change the apple tree, it will continue to produce apples because that is its' nature. We have to get to the place where the tax collector was in this parable. He may have been everything the Pharisee said he was, but he knew there was only one person who could change him, and that was the One he was crying out to for mercy. Jesus said that the tax collector was the one who went home justified, indicating that God had heard him, and not the Pharisee. God had responded to the desperate heartfelt cry of a man in desperation. God did for the tax collector what He would not do for the Pharisee.

In Luke 7:36-39, Jesus is at the home of a Pharisee for a meal. While there, a sinful woman from the city came and stood behind Jesus, washed Jesus' feet with her tears, dried them with her hair, and anointed them with oil. The Pharisee, within himself, condemned Jesus for not recognizing what type of person was washing His feet. Jesus knowing what he was thinking, rebuked him with a short parable about forgiveness. When He finished He told the Pharisee, "For this reason I say to you, her sins, which are many, have been forgiven, for she loved much; but he who is forgiven little, loves little." (Luke 7:47)

I believe the key to becoming who we are supposed to be, lies in the position of the tax collector and this sinful woman. We must realize who we are and that we are in need of change. There is only one way for us to get to that position, where we can't even look upward as we cry out for mercy. Where we are literally weeping at the feet of Jesus, and that is through the work of the Holy Spirit (John 16:7-9). We need to become the new creation that the Apostle Paul spoke about in 1 Corinth. 5:17. But we can't be "in Christ" until we get "to Christ", and we can't truly get to Christ unless find ourselves like these two individuals.

The real blessing in getting to this place in our lives is this; that God meets us right there. He has been calling us there, and He has been waiting for us to get there. Once we have this type of encounter with ourselves and with Christ we are forever changed. We have been forgiven much and therefore we love much. We never look at ourselves the same way, and we never look at others the same way we used to either. Gone is the attitude of pride, arrogance, and self-righteousness. Replacing it is humility, compassion, and understanding.

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Lastly, when we move forward from this divine encounter, we have the mercy we cried out for, our sins and sinfulness have been forgiven, and we get up justified before God who is our Judge and Savior. If we find ourselves slipping back into those old attitudes, we need only recall this experience in our life. We need to remember what God said about us, and then what He did for us. I can't imagine anyone who went through something like this ever looking down on anyone, or lifting themselves above anyone either.

My prayer is simply this. That we, as the body of Christ, would set an example to the world of how people should treat each other. Remember that Jesus said, "By this all men will know you are My disciples, if you have love for one another." (John 13:35) If we fail, what does that say about us? It doesn't matter what the other person has done in, or with, their life, whether they were swindlers, unjust, adulterers, or tax collectors. It doesn't matter if we pay our tithes and fast twice a week. That makes us nothing before God. What matters is that we are all God's creation and those of us who are in the body of Christ have an obligation to demonstrate the love of God to each other with a spirit of equality. We also have a duty to reach out with that love to those outside, in hopes that God might also grant them repentance. Let's give the world something to live up to, something to desire. Let's be *who* we are supposed to be. Amen.

Pastor Pete

In His service

A Testimony (from Daniel R)

Since my release from Tehachapi in 2010, I felt that I had also been released from ministry. I found myself constantly praying that I could some day be used as a minister of the Gospel again. Well just a few weeks ago, God placed someone new in my life who is hungry and thirsty to know the things concerning God and His precious word left unto us. Within a short time of fellowshiping with this new brother, God helped me to understand that I was never released from ministry, but that our ministry assignments can change. Also, several brothers pointed out that I have been sharing the Gospel, just not on the scale I was used to. I realized that it is not about quantity but will always about quality. Even if it is just an audience of one. After all, our Lord spent the majority of his ministry with only 12 men. Isn't it funny how something so simple can be forgotten when you are not surrounded by wise counsel?

I used to lead Bible Studies in Tehachapi and Kern Valley, but now it has been over the phone with my Mom, with a co-worker or client or even at the supermarket running into a neighbor. It has been simply sharing a text message or scripture with a brother or sister in Christ. The "format" is not what I am used to, but God doesn't necessarily stick to one format for enriching us with His word. He does things His way and it works. As God leads us through transitions in life I am still learning to keep an open mind about how He chooses to use us to minister His message. It is always an honor and a privilege to be used by the Master, and it is His prerogative when and how we are used. I would like to close by quoting one of my favorite testimonials I have ever heard. "God does not want our ability, He wants our availability."

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Our Prayer Requests for God's Children

Calvary Church, Santa Ana

Bobby C.....Needs prayer for his addiction issues. He has been missing for over two weeks.
ANSWERED – BOBBY HAS BEEN FOUND AND IS REACHING OUT FOR HELP.

Liberty Church, Moreno Valley

Youth Group.....Pray that the youth group going to Canada will be successful in their missionary journey. They will be ministering the gospel to people their own age.

Lee P.....Pray for his health issues and God's strength through them.

Baby Mary.....She is just about six months old and has severe heart problems and is need of a transplant.

Margret.....Wonderful 80+ yr. young lady. She took a bad fall and is still recovering. She misses church.

The Church.....Pray that God would meet their financial needs in the coming year.

Harvest Valley Church, Santa Ynez

Congregation.....Pray that God will continue to bless and provide for their needs as they have reached out to so many. They are a real small church that has sent in thousands of life changing Bibles to men in prison. I personally experienced God working through these gifts.

California

Victor A.....Prayer for hepatitis, and other health issues coming from just being old.

Faye A.Prayer for her health issues. That God would bless and guide her in her ministry work.

Rodney (?).....Needs prayer. He is being sucked into discouragement and despair.
ANSWERED – RODNEY IS BEING ENCOURAGE AND MENTORED AND IS DOING MUCH BETTER.

Mary S.....Pray that God would continue to give her a sound and clear mind. That He would bless her and her ministry.

Carlos R.....He lost his job and possibly will be homeless soon. Allowing depression to enter in. Please pray for him.

John B.....Needs prayer for favor with the court system and be vindicated for wrongful conviction.

Steve L.....Praying for wisdom and guidance in fulfilling the ministry God has given him.

Eddie S.Continued reconciliation with family members.

Joanne R.Pray that God would bless her for her many gifts, prayers, and love for those in need.

Daniel V.....Reliable vehicle. To be reunited with his daughter. Praying for employment.
ANSWERED – COMMUNICATION WITH DAUGHTER HAS BEGUN THROUGH SISTER.

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Gary G.....That he reach out to God and hang on. Praying for his prayer circle idea.
PARTIALLY ANSWERED – PRAYER CIRCLE UP AND RUNNING

Pete CPraying to find work. Reunification of his family. Healing of oldest son's addiction issues.
PARTIALLY ANSWERED – DAUGHTER IS TEXTING AND CALLING HIM
PARTIALLY ANSWERED - SON IS SOBER AND GETTING HELP

Daniel R.....That his boss would be saved by faith in Jesus and the business would flourish. Praying for a home church to fellowship in. Direction in Bible study.
ANSWERED PRAYER – HAVING FELLOWSHIP WITH A HOMELESS MAN GOD BROUGHT INTO HIS LIFE.

Larry HPraying for healing for his continuing health issues.
PARTIALLY ANSWERED – COLONOSCOPY SHOWED NO CANCER

Randy C.....Praying he can find a job. Get a transfer so he can live with his Mom.
PARTIALLY ANSWERED – HE NOW LIVING WITH HIS MOM.

George B.....Pray for reunification of family, and that he would maintain a healthy relationship with God. Please pray for my children to open their hearts (Michael, Christina and Jason). Request prayer for God's wisdom in the purchase of real estate property.

Florida

Scott F.....Pray for resolution to his health issues and the safety of his children who are serving in the armed forces.

Minnesota

TJ & Julie W.....Pray for God's wisdom in conducting the marriage classes. TJ's surgery on his wrist.
ANSWERED – SURGERY WAS SUCCESSFUL, HEALING WELL

North Carolina

David(Daniel R's. 14 yr. old cousin) – That God would help him make it through his cancer treatments.
PARTIALLY ANSWERED – DAVID LEFT THE HOSPITAL ON NOV. 16th

Wisconsin

Jean P.....Praying that God would make her family whole and at peace.

Guatemala

Benjamin A.....Praying to get Spanish Bibles for prisoners in Guatemala.

Kenya

Larry S.....Missionary to Kenya, is having health issues and needs prayers for strength and healing.

Ministries

The Lord's Mountain

MoversPraying for funding for: postage, printing, office supplies, and we are trying to get funding to file our 501(C)(3) corporate paperwork.

Acts

Foundation.....Praying for continued support for their prison ministry.

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Lost and Found

By JesusPray that the issues with the city & county would come to a mutual agreement. That the Lord would bless and increase their ministry. Pray for God to meet their financial needs this coming year. Seeking God’s direction for an additional home.

ANSWERED – THE COUNTY AND CITY HAVE LET GO OF THE ISSUES THEY HAD.

Saving Grace

Homes.....God is bringing opportunities for expansion. Pray for His wisdom and discernment in every decision they face. Pray for their patience in God’s timing.

Brothers in Chino

West YardThat God would continue to honor and direct their efforts in putting His church in order.

PARTIALLY ANSWERED – COMPLETED GUIDELINES AND ESTABLISHED SOUND LEADERSHIP

Tom H.....He wants prayer for greater understanding and knowledge in the word of God. That God will also guide him as he shares God’s word with others.

Larry K.Pray that he will be guided by the Holy Spirit as he helps to lead the church back under the will of God.

Sebastian M.Pray that God will continue to grow him in the confidence of the faith that God has given him.

Bob G.Pray that God continues to restore family and friends back into his life.

Brothers in Tehachapi

Gabriel S.....Praying for favor for his writ that was submitted for his release. God’s will for his family. Pray for his wife who has a lump in her breast, is going to get a biopsy. His sister and her husband need employment and housing.

Kenny J.....Praying that the door for communication with his children will be opened up. Also that his son Jeff will be delivered from his addiction issues. Kenny needs a place to live upon his release.

Ernesto M.Pray that he will leave prison the man, husband, son, and father God wants him to be.

Winifred W.....Please pray his daughter Debra, she was diagnosed with stage 2 liver cancer and is undergoing treatment. Also pray for Winifred as his family is drawing close to him again.

Tim PPray for salvation in his family, and restoration with all his family members. Pray for God’s intervention in his board hearing so he will find favor and be released.

Brothers in Chowchilla

Johnny L.....God would prepare him to get out and further the Lord’s kingdom.

Brothers in Desert View

David P.Pray that God will open up the opportunity for him to share God’s word with those in his dorm and within the facility.