Don't Speak *About* Your Mountain! Speak *To* Your Mountain! Mark 11:22-24

This week's sermon notes will give you the background of the text listed above. The challenge this week is to take the Word of God like medicine. Allow it to come in and heal your mind, body and soul! In this lifestyle we live in the U.S we are bombarded by information. This Word is not just information but will cause transformation in your life if you are open to believe the Words God have spoken. Amen! (So be it!)

Faith, what is faith?

Every Christian should experience the fruit of having a personal relationship with Christ. The problem is that many people who attend church are not seeing or experiencing any fruit in their lives. Why? Many people believe they don't qualify to receive the fruit of Christ. This is a lie from Satan but you can't get the fruit without having the right roots. Many people want the fruit but don't want to take time to get the roots right.

For example if you want to grow grass you must follow these steps.

- 1. 1st Dig up the weeds
- 2. Then you have to fertilize and prepare the soil
- 3. Plant the grass seeds

4. Cultivate the grass, (waters it, and continues to fertilize it) this is a yearly continuous process.

Grass, which is not natural vegetation to most ground, takes time and effort to grow. If you leave the ground alone guess what grows? Weeds not grass!

Like grass is not natural vegetation likewise faith does not come natural to Christians. It's not natural because in the world believing is seeing. With faith you believe first and then you see. Faith has to be grown. You can catch a lot of things but you can't catch faith. It's an individual process. Just because your spouse has faith doesn't mean you will catch her faith. Just because your grandmother or grandfather had faith doesn't mean you will catch their faith. In order for you to begin to know how to speak to your mountains you must first nurture and cultivate your root of faith. Many people are malnourished when it comes to faith. Like in the example of the lawn if a person does not take the time to cultivate and take care of their lawn, there lawn will look like trash. Likewise as a Christian if you don't take the time to nurture and care for your faith you will end up with a trashy life. Many people end up with trashy lives because they keep asking God to change them but they won't spend the time taking care to nurture and grow their faith. Its best put this way, God will always do His part but He will not do your part. Where do you find the person who has the best lawn? He is always spending his time caring for his yard. If we want a beautiful life we must spend the time taking care of it. If the guy who has the best yard sees a dandelion he will go and pluck it. Not just pull it up but he will dig it up and pluck it from the root. If he doesn't then the weed will grow back. How many things in your life are you plucking up only later they pop back up again? Why? Because you have not gotten rid of the root! Until you spend time plucking up the

root you will continue to have the same issues in your life. Change comes only when there is a change! What area do you need to pluck in your life?

What are you settling for?

Don't become accustomed to being average. Don't be afraid to fail! Deep down inside you desire to be more than a conqueror but you find yourself settling. What have you decided is not going to change in your life? Have you said to yourself this is just the way it is? Instead of living with purpose you find yourself just living. You are on your way to greatness but you can't give up! Grass doesn't grow overnight and neither will your greatest accomplishments. Don't become so accustomed to average that you make the decision not to do anything different. If you never do anything different then nothing different is going to happen. Society today tells us if we don't get quick results then we have failed. If we don't see the results quick enough then we stop putting the time in. How many of you have made New Year's Resolutions only to guit before you could get the desired outcome? In Colossians 1:17 AMP says: And He Himself existed before all things, and in Him all things consist (cohere, are held together). God is saying to us He is the Author and Finisher of all things. Until God becomes your first priority, until He becomes the center of your life your life will not change. No matter what you do within your own strength and ability things will remain the same and in many cases it becomes worse. Who or what is most important to you? Is it your job or career? Is it obtaining "stuff"? Is your social life and social media more important than time with God? Until God is the center of your life your roots won't be established and as long as your roots are not established you won't see fruit. You will live a frustrated life until you do. All the gifts and talents you possess were given to you by God. Many people only want God as an EMT; only in emergency situations. God wants us to fellowship with Him all the time. Even if you won't change God remains the same. Talk to Him every day. He is there longing for a relationship with you. God will do whatever you ask Him to do the only thing He won't do is be number two.

What are you doing with your time?

How much of your time is dedicated to God; like the man with the beautiful lawn it takes time. To create a beautiful life it takes time with God. God has commanded us to work out our own salvation with fear and trembling. (**Philippians 2:12**) He has also advised us not to forsake the assembly of ourselves. (**Hebrews 10:25**) People are dying because they keep uprooting themselves. One day you're in church and the next day you're out. If you want to improve your overall health and physique you must go to the gym. It will take going and working out on a consistent regular basis, every week. You would have to be there at least 3-5 days a week, spending at least an hour each time. It's the same with our time with God. If you want to see things change in your life you need to spend time with God daily. If you only went to the gym one time no one is going to come up to and say "hey man have you been working out?" No! It takes time. You didn't become overweight overnight and neither was the mountain you're facing created overnight! Anything worth having is worth working for. **A Romans 6:5 tells** us we must discard our old life. You must be willing to let go of the old and embrace the new!

Sin in the Garden

Satan knew that God loved us. He introduced sin because he knew God hated sin. He devised this plan as an attack against God. Satan said, "You will either love what you hate or hate what you love. It wasn't about you

and it wasn't about me. It was to try and force God to contradict Himself, either love what He hates or to hate what He loves. God said "I don't have to choose either one. I'm going to send My Son. This will allow me to love what I hate without violating my own laws. If you are battling depression, a defeated attitude, issues or financial problems you have to get into the Word of God to build up your roots in these areas. This is developing a system internally that will assist you with overcoming your problems. You are more than a conqueror which means you already have the victory you just have to work at obtaining it! Don't judge where you are based on your circumstances. How you view your circumstances is just as important as the details of circumstances. You can't transform your life beyond your own thought life. You have to change the way you think.

Root Change-Pluck the weeds

Who do you believe in? This is not just a thought; it's a way of life. Is Jesus the center of your life? Joy comes from within and when you accept Jesus as your Lord and Savior the Holy Spirit comes and resides within you. He is the source of your joy. Your joy then turns into your passion and passion turns into product which is your fruit. Another important piece of the puzzle, knowing you're vital to the Kingdom and God has something that only you can do. Christianity is about giving. Be giving of your time, talents and treasure in order to glorify God and being a benefit to others. In relationships if you are the only one giving you become depleted, so church is designed to edify and encourage one another. Know who you are and whose you are and know what you believe. When you love someone you take time to learn that person. Don't spend too much time chasing after entertainment. Watch what you are watching. Watch what you are listening to and watch what you believe. Time will tell what has value to you. **Romans 10:17**, faith comes by hearing and hearing by the Word of God. Remember to be faithful in a few things as well as in plenty! Don't believe Satan's lies when he tells you, you can't fully commit to church. Seek God first above all else.

God said, "I'll do it if you allow me to do it. If you want the fruit you have to get to the root. Change is sometimes painful but it's necessary. So before you can speak to your mountain you have to get to the root of faith!"