

**JEREMIAH 33:3 "CALL TO ME" GROUP BIBLE STUDIES – LEADER'S STUDY -
LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES**

LESSON #5 – A CHRISTIAN'S CALL TO MOVE A MOUNTAIN

A CHRISTIAN'S CALL – Many places in Scripture the Lord says we are to call upon Him in prayer. Indeed, He is so bold in His commitment to hear and answer our petitions that He says, (Mark 11: 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." Those words have always led me to ask, "Is the Lord serious? Does He really want us to be flinging mountains around?" Our lesson tries to find an answer to those questions.

THE PRAYER – We pray: Dear Lord, our Heavenly Father, through the blood of Your Son, our Savior, we have been adopted into the family of faith. May we, as Your children, listen to Your invitations, and gladly bring our prayers to You with confidence. In those moments when we 'doubt in our hearts', grant us an extra measure of faith. This we pray in Jesus' Name. Amen.

ILLUSTRATION - It was a number of years ago that the little boy came home from Vacation Bible School and his mother asked him what he had learned that morning. "Well Mother", he thoughtfully replied, "we learned that Moses went behind the enemy Egyptian lines and freed the Israelites. Then he took the Hebrew army engineers and they quickly built a pontoon bridge across the Red Sea. Then when the Egyptians' tank division started to cross over the bridge he called in the dive bombers and the planes blew all of God's enemies to bits." Naturally, the boy's mother was outraged. Before she called to church to complain, she asked, by way of confirmation, "Are you sure that's what your teacher taught you?" The little boy examined the floor for a minute, and then finally confessed, "Well, no Mom, but if I told you what she did teach us, there's no way you would believe it!"

SATAN'S SUMMONS – The truth is that the devil believes in the Christ. He believes in the Bible. He believes the whole business of religion. In fact, he is in the business of religion. That is why the devil believes in the creeds. He believes that Jesus carried our sins. He believes that we can be saved. He even believes in the power of prayer. But the devil has never been saved and he is not going to heaven. And, if he has his way, the world will not get there either.

THOUGHT: That is why, today, every day, Satan whispers words of doubt into the ears of God's people. He says that the days of miracles and the age of faith are all past. True, God may have helped His people once upon a time, but that 'once upon a time' was a long time ago. The devil tells us, again and again, that God can't do this and He won't do that. Rather than having faith that can move mountains, the devil invests a great deal of time in encouraging us to believe that the Lord won't move the smallest of molehills for His people.

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 1 – Take a look at the Scripture passages which follow and see who was tempted to doubt the power of the Lord.

TEXT	WHO DOUBTED GOD	WHAT WAS THE NATURE OF THE DOUBT
Job 9:16-23	Job	If he called on God, the Lord wouldn't give him a hearing.
Job 30:20-21	Job	He calls, but God just looks at him.
Psalms 22:2	David	He cries out, but God is silent. He feels cut off.
Psalms 77:7-9	Asaph	He feels God is angry and has disappeared from caring.
Jeremiah 15:18	Jeremiah	Feels God is a fair weather Friend.

What does the Lord say about such people who hear Satan tell us that God doesn't care or respond to His people?

WHO SAID	WHAT DID HE SAY	
Isaiah 49:14-15	Isaiah	The Lord can't forget His people.
Mark 4:40	Jesus	He wants to know why the disciples have no faith.
Matthew 14:31	Jesus	He wants to know why the disciples doubted.

FIRST APPLICATION: In both the Old and the New Testaments, God's heroes of faith encountered those moments when they doubted whether the Lord would move mountains or anything else on their behalf. As time went by, the Spirit often opened their eyes, and they were able to discover that the Lord does care about them, and is willing to answer their prayers, giving them more than they had imagined or asked for. Over eighty years of bringing Christ to the nations and individuals has taught Lutheran Hour Ministries that

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the greatest limitations on our prayers as we call upon the Lord comes from us, not from Him. We are very much like:

ILLUSTRATION: The city slicker who bought a hobby farm and a few milk cows. In the feed store one day he complained his best cow had gone dry. "Aren't you feeding her right?" asked the store owner. "I'm feeding her what you've been selling me," said the man. "Are you milking her twice a day?" "Pretty much. If I need a few ounces of milk for breakfast, I go out and get it. If I don't need any, I don't get it--I just let her save it up." After a long time trying not to roll on the ground in laughter, the feed store owner explained it doesn't work that way. With cow's milk, you take all that's there, or you end up with nothing. The same is true for calling upon God. We take as much as He gives, not what we think we need. Let's take a look at these Scripture lessons and see who expected, and received what.....

SCRIPTURE SEARCH 2 - CHRIST'S CALL -

TEXT	WHO CAME IN PRAYER	WHAT "MOUNTAINS" DID THE LORD MOVE
Joshua 10:12-13	Joshua	That the sun would stop in its course.
1 Kings 18: 24, 37-39	Elijah	Fire would fall upon his sacrifice.
1 Kings 3: 7-14	Solomon	Asked for wisdom, God gave that and riches, too.
1 Kings 17:22	Elijah	Boy was restored to life
Luke 23: 42	Thief on the cross.	Asked to be remembered - Received eternal life.
Acts 9: 40	Peter	Tabitha was restored to life.

The Lord sums up His philosophy about mountain moving in Proverbs. What does it say:

Proverbs 24:10 - If you falter in times of trouble, how small is your strength!

Who is the person that falters?	God / Man
Who is the one whose strength is small?	God / Man

THOUGHT & ILLUSTRATION - Scripture is plain that there is an enormous gap between what we think we can do and what God is willing to do with His people who call upon Him. Any serious reading of God's Word tells us that His ideas for those Who call upon Him are grand, while, our ideas of what we think can be accomplished are almost trivial. The Lord has called us to great things. Take a look at some of those things:

TEXT	WHAT "MOUNTAINS" DOES GOD WANT MOVED?
Psalms 50:15	Call upon God so He can deliver us
John 14: 12	Do the same things Jesus has been doing.
2 Timothy 2: 8-10	Endure everything for the sake of the Gospel.

The ability to move mountains is only as good as that which stands behind the promise. If we trust people to help us move mountains; we get what people can do. If we trust money to help us move mountains; we get what money can do. If we trust God, we get what God can do. And what God can do is make us: "more than conquerors through him that loved us." That is what we proclaim.

Are there some mountains in your church that are in need of moving? YES NO

If the answer is YES, record them here: _____

Will you not pray to the Lord about them this week? YES NO How many minutes each day: _____

THE WAY OF PRAYER – Dear Lord, You have told us that we can move mountains. We know mountains got moved back in Bible times. Help us move some mountains today. Make us Your assistants in showing to this world that Your power is not limited and our faith in what You can do is strong. In Jesus' Name, I pray it. Amen.