

A Seed that Moves Mountains

 Matthew 17:14–20

It is a blessing that the past ten years of ministry at Hananoi Baptist Church have proceeded smoothly. Yet when we look at the Christian Church across our country, its influence is clearly in decline. Looking further afield, we see Christian nations engaged in warfare. It is a sorrowful and painful reality.

In Jesus' time, faith in God had likewise stagnated in Palestine. Under Roman rule, the religious leaders had aligned themselves with the Empire and exploited ordinary people through heavy taxation. Against this backdrop the Lord rebuked Jewish society. "O faithless and perverse generation" (v.17). And again, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed... you will say to this mountain, 'Move,' and it will move" (v.20). A man once brought his son to Jesus. He had consulted doctors, but the boy's epilepsy had not been healed. The disciples prayed for him, yet nothing changed. But when Jesus rebuked the evil spirit, the child was instantly healed. It was a miraculous act of the Lord. When the disciples asked why they had been unable to cast out the spirit, Jesus answered plainly: "Because you have so little

faith" (v.20). It may sound like a rebuke directed at them, but in truth it was a word aimed at the wider Jewish society of the time.

Like the disciples, we do not possess the kind of faith that performs miracles—healing the sick or moving mountains. To be sure, advances in medicine and science have cured many illnesses, and civil engineering has made it possible to move mountains. Yet even as we enjoy these benefits, today's society lacks even a mustard seed of faith in God the Almighty who deserves our worship.

Behind the progress of medicine and science, there must surely have been the work of a God who loves humanity. Modern society has forgotten this. Now, more than ever, Jesus the Prince of Peace longs for the world to offer Him even a single mustard seed of faith.