



Grace Assembly Of God

Chapter-by-Chapter Bible Reading Devotional

Scripture: Matthew 21

Title: Faith in Unprecedented Times

Author: Ho Wan Leng

Summary of Chapter: There are three key events and two parables in this chapter: Jesus' triumphant entry into Jerusalem and started His final ministry before the Passion Week, the cleansing of the temple, and the cursing of the fig tree. All 3 key events and 2 parables pointed to the message that Christ is the Messiah and through Him comes salvation.

Key Verses

How does it speak to me?

²⁰The disciples were amazed when they saw this and **asked**, "How did the fig tree wither so quickly?"

²¹Then Jesus told them, "I tell you the truth, **if you have faith and don't doubt**, you can do things like this and much more. You can even say to this mountain, 'May you be lifted up and thrown into the sea,' and it will happen. ²²You can **pray** for anything, and **if you have faith, you will receive it.**"

In my 30+ years of work life, I have been through 5 major recessions; 1987 Black Monday, 1997 Asia Financial Crisis, Late 90s Dot-com Bubble, 2003 SARs and 2008 Great Recession. When I was going through each, they seem like immovable mountains. And now, my 6th major recession. Is this your first time? Are you somewhat negatively impacted? Have faith. God is faithful and God is good. Let me share my personal encounters.

1. During the 1987 Black Monday – thousands of fresh graduates were unemployed. I was anxious, lost and directionless. Knowing my source of help comes from the Lord strengthened my faith to press on. God provided me a teaching job in a private school.
2. During the 1997 Asia Financial Crisis – upon my return from London with a post-graduate degree, I had only savings to last 6 months without a job. Knowing to trust and entrust by casting all my cares and anxieties to Him further strengthened my faith to persevere. On the 7th month, God provided me a job at a Big 4 consulting company.

Today, if you are facing a mountain that seemingly is immovable, I encourage you to know that Jesus is our source of help and provision.

Be joyful in hope, patient in affliction and faithful in prayer.

Through it all, I have learned that between my prayer and God's answer there is a space He builds my character. My job is to seek first the Kingdom of God and all these shall be added unto me. Each trial and test are a stepping-stone to my faith maturity.

APPLICATION REFLECTIONS

Adult: Are you facing a seemingly immovable mountain? Faith is a gift and each trial a stepping-stone to a stronger and deeper faith. What must we do to strengthen and mature our faith?

Youth: Have you faced a big mountain? How did God help you?

Child: What does 'having faith in God' mean? Whenever you sit on a chair, do you ever think the chair will give way? Having confidence in God helps us to overcome big problems in life. How does the word of God build your confidence in Him?

PRAYER

Praying Scripture: Dear heavenly Father, we thank you for the gift of faith through your Son Jesus. Through you by faith nothing is impossible. Teach us, O Lord to seek first the Kingdom of God and to know You more through Your Word for faith comes by hearing the Word of God. Lord, we know all things work together for good to those who love You and are called in accordance to Your purpose. We trust and entrust all into your hands by faith.

Thanksgiving Prayer: I/We thank you for _____ (e.g. delicious food we ate, places we went, prayer that was answered, etc)

Intercessory Prayer: I/We want to pray for _____ (e.g. healing of sickness, family members, work or study, leaders, nation, etc)

Salvation Prayer: I/We pray for the salvation of my/our unsaved loved ones _____ (add one name per day). In Jesus' Name I/we pray. Amen.