

INTRODUCTION.

- A. Scripture text: **Matthew 17:14-20**.
- B. There is a pizza commercial out now about "living on the edge."
- C. I believe that everyone lives life on the edge. Depending on what we think, and what we do, we live on the edge of greatness, or on the edge of complacency.
- D. But I also believe that there is one essential element in making life successful and faithful... *a mustard seed of faith*.

I. THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN THE COMMON AND THE GREAT.

- A. See **Mt. 17:14-20**.
- B. Nothing is impossible to those who have faith.
- C. To say that SRCC is on the edge of greatness is to also say that we are on the edge of complacency. We are living on the edge!
- D. Jesus was a great man of faith, and He took the common man, and made him into something great. He can do the same with us:
 - 1. Matthew, the tax-collector, the Jewish traitor working for the Romans (Mt. 9:9).
 - 2. Peter, the uneducated, untrained fisherman (Mt. 4:18-22).
 - 3. Simon the Zealot, the nationalistic Jew (Mt. 10:24).
- E. The reason the apostles could not cast out the demon was their lack of faith in X. With just a little faith, mountains can be moved.

II. WHAT A MUSTARD SEED OF FAITH CAN DO.

- A. Heb. 11:6 says that God will reward the man who has faith.
- B. David slew Goliath w/a sling, a stone, and a mustard seed of faith in God (1Sam. 17:1-53).
- C. Jesus promised that we would do great things (Jo. 14:12).
- D. Did Paul lie when he said it is possible to do all things by X's power (Phil. 4:13)?
- E. This power is at work w/in us, and is from God (Eph. 3:20-21).

III. SOME FAMILIAR EXCUSES.

- A. The giving of excuses is not new when it comes to the realization that one can be faithful to what God has called him/her.
- B. Four familiar excuses are:
 - 1. I'm not talented enough.
Moses tried that one and failed (Ex. 4:10; 1Cor. 12:22-23).
 - 2. I don't have the training or education.
Disproved by Peter and John (Ac. 4:13).
 - 3. We don't have enough money.
"God writes the checks!" (Phil. 4:19).
 - 4. We've never done that here before.
This is a statement which is disproved by its own logic. There is no better reason not to try it!
- C. There are really only two questions that need to be asked if we are going to get off of the edge and onto greatness:
 - 1. Is it scriptural?
 - 2. Is it needed?
- D. If we answer "yes" to both questions, all we need is a mustard seed of faith!

IV. **A SIMPLE PLAN OF ACTION FOR GREATNESS.**

- A. A very simple plan of action can cure a mediocre faith to get off the edge on onto greatness.
- B. Three steps:
 - 1. **Ask God.** We don't have because we don't ask (Jas. 4:2; Mt. 7:7-11; Lk. 18:1-7).
 - 2. **Test God.** Gideon had his fleece, Malachi his tithe, and Jesus His cross (Mal. 3:10).
 - 3. **Trust God.** See Hab. 2:4; Gal. 2:20; 2Cor. 5:7; Rom. 8:28.
- C. Look at yourself this morning and realize that you are living on the edge. Which way will you go?
- D. To get off the edge and onto greatness, all you need is a mustard seed of full of faith.

CONCLUSION AND INVITATION.

- A. Don't miss the point of the passage (Mt. 17:14-20), and conclude that there are some thing that man cannot do. I don't believe that is the message that Jesus wanted us to get.
- B. Rather, let us see that w/faith and that as small as a mustard seed we can do great things. We need not be complacent, lackadaisical, and plain-vanilla common!
- C. Let's get off the edge and onto greatness!
- D. Plan of salvation for non-Xians, erring Xians.