11-17-19 – **“And Some Of Us Wonder Why”?**

*“I tell you, you can pray for anything, and if you believe that you’ve received it, it will be yours. But when you are praying, first forgive anyone you are holding a grudge against, so that your Father in heaven will forgive your sins, too. But if you do not forgive, neither will your Father who is in heaven forgive your transgressions."* Mark 11:24-26

In chapter 11 of the Gospel according to Mark, we review what we have come to now as Passion Week, or the week in which Christ died, and the great occurrences of that week. Christ’s riding in triumph into Jerusalem, His cursing the barren fig-tree. Also, His driving those out of the temple that turned it into an exchange. His discourse with his disciples concerning the power of faith and the efficacy of prayer, on occasion of the withering of the fig-tree he cursed, and Jesus reply to those who questioned his authority.

In our text scriptures (22-26) Christ teaches his disciples from this point forward to pray in faith, or in other words; Have faith in God. They admired the power of Christ’s word of command; Why, said Christ, "a lively active faith that would put as great a power into our prayers. Through the strength and power of God in Christ, the greatest difficulty shall be to get over, and the thing shall be affected.

Now this is to be applied, to that faith of miracles which the apostles and first preachers of the gospel were endued with, which did wonders in things natural*,* healing the sick, raising the dead, casting out devils; these were, in effect, the removing of mountains. The apostles speak of a faith which would do that, and yet might be found where holy love was not. It may be applied to that miracle of faith, which all true Christians are endued with, which doeth wonders in things spiritual. It justifies us and so removes the mountains of guilt, and casts them into the depths of the sea*,* never to rise up in judgment against us. It purifies the heart, and so removes mountains of corruption, and makes them plains before the grace of God. It is by faith that the world is conquered, Satan’s fiery darts are quenched, a soul is crucified with Christ, and yet lives; by faith we set the Lord always before us, and see him that is invincible, and have him present to our minds; and this is effectual to remove mountains, for at the presence of the Lord, at the presence of the God of Jacob, the mountains were not only moved, but removed. To this is added here that necessary qualification of the prevailing prayer, that we freely forgive those who have been any way injurious to us and be in charity with all men.

The world is held up by standings*.* But the primitive Christians generally used more humble and reverent gesture of kneeling, especially on fast days, though not on Lord’s days. When we are at prayer, we must remember to pray for others, particularly for our enemies, and those that have wronged us; now we cannot pray sincerely that God would do them good, if we bear malice to them, and wish them ill. If we have injured others before we pray, we must go and attempt to fix it, but if they have injured us, we go a nearer way to work, and must immediately from our hearts forgive them. Because this is a good step towards obtaining the pardon of our own sins: Forgive, that your Father may forgive you; that is, "that he may be qualified to receive forgiveness, that he may forgive you without injury to his honor, as it would be, if he should suffer those to have such benefit by his mercy. So, the question is, **“And Some Of Us Wonder Why”?**