



## 10th Sunday of Matthew

Last week, we saw Peter fail his “test of faith.” This week, we see the disciples fail. A man who is “moon-struck” is brought to Jesus only because the disciples couldn’t heal him. By a word, Jesus heals the boy, but not without chastising the disciples’ lack of trust. Trust as small as a mustard seed can “move mountains,” he tells them. The mountain that Jesus refers to is Mount Zion, from which God reigns. It was from a mountain that the Law was given, and it was on a mountain that Jesus was revealed to be the content of the Law (the Transfiguration). To move a mountain is to go and proclaim the gospel in new places—to bring God’s “mountain reign” to all corners of the world. And, in case you forgot how God reveals himself as king, Jesus reminds them that it’s intimately tied to his betrayal, death, and resurrection.

**Scripture:** Matthew 17:14-23

**Bottom Line:** Trust is giving your allegiance to the one God who can give you the power to move mountains.

### Discussion Questions

1. What causes you to lose faith and do something you know is contrary to your Christian faith? How can you find the strength to “trust” Christ in those situations?
2. How does seeing the connection between Mt. Sinai, Mt. Zion, and Mt. Tabor help you understand “moving mountains”? What does it say about God that he reigns from a high mountain? What does it say about God that he is revealed as King through the crucifixion?
3. The “epileptic” followed after other gods (see below). But we are called to the way of the cross. Some Greek manuscripts mention prayer and fasting here. How might they show us the way of the cross? How can you be better in tune with Jesus and his calling for our lives?

### Moving Forward

Most translators translate *σεληνιάζομαι* as “epileptic.” But, Matthew actually says that the boy was “moon-struck.” So, what’s the spiritual meaning of this? Well, Deuteronomy 4:19 makes a reference to worshipping the moon. In other words, Matthew is telling us that the man’s son had been led astray by false idols or philosophies, which are destroying him by fire and water. Today, we are often led astray by our own philosophies and ideologies, which often drive our persuasions and motives. But, as Christians, we are called to put our trust in the gospel of the crucified Christ, as revealed on Mt. Sinai and Mt. Tabor, and not in the views of humans.

### Changing Your Mind

“Because of your little faith. For truly I tell you, if you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move; and nothing will be impossible for you.” (Matthew 17:20-21)