**WITH GOD ALL THINGS ARE POSSIBLE**

When you see the quote, “*with God all things are possible*,” do you automatically think that is speaking of miracles? If we are honest with ourselves, most of us do. We believe that because of stories we read in our Bible.

For example, when the concerned father of a son with a demon who sent his boy into convulsions and tried to drown or burn him came pleading to Jesus to heal him, he said: “*If you can do anything, have compassion and help us*!” Jesus replied to him, “*If you can believe, all things are possible to him who believes*.” (Mark 9:21-24).

Then, in that same story, the apostles approached Jesus, confused as to why they couldn’t cast out the demon when they had already done so many times before (Matthew 10:5; Luke 10:17-20). He told them it was because of their unbelief. Then He said, “*I say to you, if you have faith as 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 17:17-20).

Since this was clearly spoken in the context of a miracle, we conclude that the “*impossible*” could only be “*possible*” when God-ordained men like apostles (2 Corinthians 12:12), and miracle workers who had been given spiritual gifts through the laying on of the apostles hands (I Cor. 12:4-11; Acts 8:18) did them. Since we no longer live in the age of miracles (study I Corinthians 13:8-13) we then conclude that the “*impossible*” is no longer “*possible*.” But is that true?

When Jesus told the apostles that it was easier for a camel to go through the eye of a needle than for a rich man to enter the kingdom of God, they were astonished and said, “*Who then can be saved*?” Jesus replied, “*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*.” (Matthew 19:23-26; Mark 10:23-27; Luke 18:24-27). Or, as Luke put it, “*The things which are impossible with men are possible with God*.” In other words, it doesn’t take a miracle for a rich man to be saved! God can change hearts, thus eternal destinies, without the miraculous.

My good friend (I hope) Kenneth Chumbley wrote a wonderful commentary on the gospel of Matthew. I’ve been studying it a lot as I’ve been teaching this book for our Wednesday night Bible class. In his comments on Matthew 17:21 on the father of the demonic boy, Kenny wrote an “*Excursus On The Impossible*” I want to quote here for your consideration.

“Just because the age of miracles has passed doesn’t mean the age of the impossible has passed. In life, we encounter situations beyond our ability to affect, control or change. But what is *impossible* to us isn’t to God. We are to pray about impossible things – a child imprisoned in sin, incurable illness, the opening of a hard heart, for kings to maintain the peace (I Tim. 2:2), etc. – in the confidence that though we are insufficient, God is able (Matt. 14:16-21; 15:33-38; Dan. 3:17). **God can work providentially without working miraculously** (vv. 27). With miracles, God worked supernaturally and directly; with providence, He works indirectly, using natural law to work His will. And what He does providentially may be as unlikely as what He did miraculously. **Unbelief doesn’t ask for the impossible, but faith does; it makes extraordinary claims on God’s power**. If we’re unwilling to ask God for the impossible, then perhaps we, too, have been shaped by the perversity of our generation.” (bold underlined emphasis is mine – rick).
- Kenneth L. Chumbley, Prairie Papers Press, *The Gospel of Matthew – Second Edition*, 2017

That’s spot on. Do you believe that?

The Holy Spirit inspired Paul to write these words:

“*Now to Him who is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that works in us*” (Ephesians 3:20)

Was this meant only for the first century Christians, or for all believers into the twenty-first century? Too often we only think in the realm of the “*possible*” and thus limit our faith and prayers to what science or nature can do. What we might need, as did the apostles in Matthew 17, was the faith the size of a mustard seed that could move mountains. Our God is not small. He fills the heaven and the heaven of heavens (Psalm 68:33).

**Application:**

I pray to my God to heal the sick, believing He hears and answers. That includes the “incurables” (meaning “impossible”). Through divine providence, *God works in mysterious ways*. While many of us have heard that phrase and immediately concluded it refers to the miraculous, therefore it is not true today, need to rethink that conclusion. No, God does not need to confirm His *word* with miracles any longer (Hebrews 2:3-4). But He does confirm His *power* by providentially hearing and answering our prayers, even to the doing of the seemingly impossible.

A rich man’s covetous heart might be beyond reach of our feeble attempts to reach him. But Jesus reminded us, “*With men this is impossible, but with God all things are possible*.” Prayers break through and achieve what man could never do himself.

What seems impossible to you right now? Please list it here: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Now, don’t ask what you, or others, can do about it, but what God can do about it. That changes everything. “*All things are possible to him who believes*.” Why? Because while our faith might be as small as a mustard seed, our God is as big as heaven itself! Believe! Just believe!

Until tomorrow… I love you.

Rick