
Perfecting in the Word Ministry

“What’s Blocking Your View?” Spirit of Truth Cathedral

Sunday Worship

April 23, 2017



Preliminary Remarks:

Saints and children of the body of Christ, biblical history presents us with recorded examples of the peoples and cultures which have both triumphed and failed when either in the will of God, or absent His will. And the lives of these people either stand as a cautionary tale, or a testimony of victorious living through patience, sacrifice, obedience, hope and faith in God’s supreme rule over our lives.

A *cautionary tale* is a tale told in folklore, to warn its hearer of a danger. There are three essential parts to a cautionary tale, though they can be introduced in a large variety of ways. First, a taboo or prohibition is stated: some act, location, or thing is said to be dangerous. Then, the narrative itself is told: someone disregarded the warning and performed the forbidden act. Finally, the violator comes to an unpleasant fate, which is frequently related in expansive and grisly detail.

Spanish philosopher Jorge Agustín Nicolás Ruiz de Santayana y Borrás (known in English as George Santayana) is popularly known for the *aphorism* [a terse saying embodying a general truth, or astute observation]: “*Those who cannot remember the past are condemned to repeat it!*”

Perfected in the Word Ministry

Here are a few samplings of other notable aphorisms:

- *“Success breeds complacency. Complacency breeds failure. Only the paranoid survive.” ~ Andy Grove*
- *“I will not allow yesterday's success to lull me into today's complacency, for this is the great foundation of failure.” ~ Og Mandino*
- *“God is calling you to a passionate love relationship with Himself. The answer to religious complacency isn't working harder at a list of do's and don'ts-it's falling in love with God.” ~ Francis Chan*
- *“Complacency is the enemy of study. We cannot really learn anything until we rid ourselves of complacency.” ~ Mao Zedong*
- *“Complacency is the deadly enemy of spiritual progress. The contented soul is the stagnant soul.” ~ Aiden Wilson Tozer*
- *“I hate to see complacency prevail in our lives when it's so directly contrary to the teaching of Christ.” ~ Jimmy Carter*
- *“The average age of the world's great civilizations has been two hundred years. These nations have progressed through the following sequence: from bondage to spiritual faith, from spiritual faith to great courage, from courage to liberty, from liberty to abundance, from abundance to selfishness, from selfishness to complacency from complacency to apathy, from apathy to dependency, from dependency back to bondage.” ~ Alexander Fraser Tytler*

The word from the Lord on this Sunday is the same word God gave me to give His people on February 5th of this year: **“move”** – not backwards, or embracing past failures, or embarking upon complacency; but toward His perfect will for our life ... absent the obstructionist view of life's drama and societal influences ... but towards a burning vision of the Lord's will for committed service and a personal call of evangelistic ministry to a dying world! The message for today's church is entitled: **“What's Blocking Your View?”**

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Text:

Isaiah 6:1-8 [King James Version]

- 1 **In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.**
- 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.
- 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
- 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.
- 5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.
- 6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:
- 7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.
- 8 **Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.**

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Introduction:

Second Chronicles (chapter twenty-six) catalogues the fifty-two-year reign of the “good” King Uzziah [792-740 BC], king of the Southern Kingdom of Judah [2Chronicles 26:1-23]. The chronicler records that Uzziah, son of Amaziah, was only sixteen years old when he became king, and that he reigned in Jerusalem for fifty-two years. To Uzziah’s credit, he did what was right in the eyes of the Lord, just as his father had done. He sought the Lord during the days of the prophet Zechariah, who instructed him in the fear of God. As long as Uzziah sought the Lord, God gave him success ... and the Kingdom of Judah prospered. As King Uzziah fought wars against the enemies of the Lord, God helped him defeat the Philistines, Arabians, and Mehunims. Uzziah’s fame spread far and wide, for he was greatly helped of the Lord, until he became powerful ... as a real estate mogul ... as commander-in-chief of vast armies ... and as a prolific inventor of machinery and arsenal for war.

But saints of God, Uzziah’s life became a cautionary tale of warning, as spoken from the wisdom of Solomon: “Pride goeth before destruction, and an haughty spirit before a fall” [Proverbs 16:18]. For after Uzziah became powerful, his pride led to his downfall. In his pride, and believing that he (as king) did not have to adhere to God’s divine order of “Separation of State and Church,” he became unfaithful to the Lord, and entered the temple of the Lord to burn incense on the altar of incense.

The chronicler records: Azariah the priest with eighty other courageous priests of the Lord followed King Uzziah in. They confronted him and said, “It is not right for you, Uzziah, to burn incense to the Lord. That is for the priests, the descendants of Aaron, who have been consecrated to burn incense. Leave the sanctuary, for you have been unfaithful; and you will not be honored by the Lord God.” Uzziah, who had a censer in his hand ready to burn

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incense, became angry. While he was raging at the priests in their presence before the incense altar in the Lord's temple, leprosy broke out on his forehead. When Azariah the chief priest and all the other priests looked at him, they saw that he had leprosy on his forehead, so they hurried him out. Indeed, Uzziah himself was eager to leave, because the Lord had afflicted him.

Levitical Law provides God-ordained *Regulations About Infectious Skin Diseases*: When a man has a reddish-white sore on his bald head or forehead, it is an infectious disease [leprosy] breaking out on his head or forehead. The priest is to examine him, and if the swollen sore on his head or forehead is reddish-white like an infectious skin disease [leprosy], the man is diseased [leprous] and is unclean. The priest shall pronounce him unclean because of the sore on his head. The person [leper] with such an infectious disease must wear torn clothes, let his hair be unkempt, cover the lower part of his face and cry out "Unclean! Unclean!" As long as he has the infection he remains unclean. He must live alone; he must live outside the camp [Leviticus 13:42-46].

The chronicler records: King Uzziah had leprosy until the day he died [Isaiah 6:1]. He lived in a separate house – leprous, and excluded from the temple of the Lord. Jotham his son had charge of the palace and governed the people of the land. The other events of Uzziah's reign, from beginning to end, are recorded by the prophet Isaiah son of Amoz [Isaiah 1-5]. Uzziah rested with his fathers and was buried near them in a field for burial that belonged to the kings, for people said, "He had leprosy." And Jotham his son succeeded him as king. So contaminating was leprosy that a leper was not buried where the bodies of loved ones might be made unclean!

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Isaiah's First Vision:

The first five chapters of the Book of Isaiah encompass the first vision of the Lord to Isaiah to prophesy to the Kingdom of Judah during the reigns of Uzziah, Ahaz and Hezekiah. Much of these chapters consist of the rebellious state of a nation of people chosen of God, intent on self-pleasure, corruption, disobedience, disingenuous worship, superstitions, divination, pagan worship, and scarlet sins toward both God and his fellow-man. God compares their sins to that of Sodom and Gomorrah, and speaks to the coming events of *The Day of the Lord*; where His wrath shall be poured out against all the proud and lofty ... all that is exalted ... arrogant men ... idolatry ... haughty women ... deceitful ... those who call evil good and good evil ... those who are wise in their own eyes ... those who acquit the guilty for a bribe, but deny justice to the innocent; because they have rejected the law of the Lord Almighty and spurned the word of the Holy One of Israel.

The *Theological Setting* suggests: “Surely God’s elect people must have pondered the meaning of such tumultuous events. Is our nation in this crisis because our God is weaker than the gods of Assyria? Is military strength the determining force in the history of nations? Could it be that bad times had come for us to see some things that we could never see in the good times? Did our love and confidence in good King Uzziah cause us to forget God, our true King? Is the external plight of our nation in any way related to the moral and ethical living of those within the nation? What does the future hold? Wherein is hope and security? Who speaks for God in such a time?”

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Isaiah's Second Vision:

In the very year that good King Uzziah died, God called Isaiah (through his second vision) to help the people answer such questions as these [Isaiah 6:1-8]. After seeking and finding cleansing for his own sins, he responded to God's call for a spokesman with his well-known words, "***Here am I. Send me!***" [Isaiah 6:8]. His task was not to be an easy one, but he must faithfully help his people understand what God was saying to them for the present and the future through the events of history.

Isaiah 6:1-8 [King James Version]

- 1 **In the year that king Uzziah died I saw also the Lord sitting upon a throne, high and lifted up, and his train filled the temple.**
- 2 Above it stood the seraphims: each one had six wings; with twain he covered his face, and with twain he covered his feet, and with twain he did fly.
- 3 And one cried unto another, and said, Holy, holy, holy, is the LORD of hosts: the whole earth is full of his glory.
- 4 And the posts of the door moved at the voice of him that cried, and the house was filled with smoke.
- 5 Then said I, Woe is me! for I am undone; because I am a man of unclean lips, and I dwell in the midst of a people of unclean lips: for mine eyes have seen the King, the LORD of hosts.
- 6 Then flew one of the seraphims unto me, having a live coal in his hand, which he had taken with the tongs from off the altar:
- 7 And he laid it upon my mouth, and said, Lo, this hath touched thy lips; and thine iniquity is taken away, and thy sin purged.
- 8 **Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying, Whom shall I send, and who will go for us? Then said I, Here am I; send me.**

John 12:41 [King James Version]

- 41 These things said Esaias, when he saw his glory, and spake of him.

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Questions:

1. What mountain(s) is/are in your way from seeing the Lord?
2. What mountain(s) is/are in your way from doing the will of the Lord?
3. Who or what is hindering you or separating you from the Love of God?
4. Who or what has to die in your life, before you can see the Lord?
5. Who or what has to die in you, before you can see the Lord?
6. Who or what does God have to take out of your life for you to have complete fellowship in Him?
7. Is your vision clouded by your circumstance(s)?
8. Are your eyes blocking or obstructing your view from seeing the glory of the Lord?

*And if **thy right eye offend thee**, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: for it is profitable for thee that one of thy members should perish, and not that thy whole body should be cast into hell... [Matthew 5:29]*

*And if **thine eye offend thee**, pluck it out, and cast it from thee: it is better for thee to enter into life **with one eye**, rather than having **two eyes** to be cast into hell fire... [Matthew 18:9]*

*And if **thine eye offend thee**, pluck it out: it is better for thee to enter into the kingdom of God with **one eye**, than having **two eyes** to be cast into hell fire... [Mark 9:47]*

9. Are you walking aimlessly through life, as if wearing blinders?
10. Are blinders hindering you from seeing in the spiritual realm of the Almighty God?
11. Do you really know God in a personal way?
12. By your lack of commitment, are you saying “No” to the will of God?
13. Is your heart ‘burning’ with desire for greater fellowship with God? The angelic seraphims are literally ‘burning ones’ caused by the all-consuming presence of God’s holiness.
14. Has Joel 2:28 and Acts 2:17 become reality in your life?

*And it shall come to pass afterward, that I will pour out my spirit upon all flesh; and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, your old men shall dream dreams, your **young men shall see visions**... [Joel 2:28]*

*And it shall come to pass in the last days, saith God, I will pour out of my Spirit upon all flesh: and your sons and your daughters shall prophesy, and your **young men shall see visions**, and your old men shall dream dreams... [Acts 2:17]*

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Altar Call: “Move Mountain”

Songwriter: Clay Evans and the Fellowship Choir

Chorus #1:

Let me tell you how to move a mountain,
(That’s too hard for you to climb).
Let me tell you how to move a mountain,
(One that hides the bright sunshine).

Chorus #2:

Let me tell you how to move a mountain,
(When the climbing gets you down).
Let me tell you how to move a mountain,
(When you’ve traveled your last round).

Verse #1:

(When your hands are bleeding and torn),
(And your feet are weary and worn);
When you try to climb up),
(But the rocks and reels makes the going tough),
Just say move mountain, move mountain,
Mountain get out of my way.

Verse #2:

(When your friends have left you behind),
(And your way, you cannot find);
When prayer is for help),
(But you stand alone feeling by yourself),
Just say move mountain, move mountain,
Mountain get out of my way.

Ending:

If you have the faith the size of a mustard seed,
Just say move mountain, move mountain,
Mountain get out of my way.

What’s Blocking Your View?

Saints, it’s time that we take a serious stand for our personal salvation and the burdening “call” upon our lives to “**move**” every weight, and the sin which doth so easily beset us from seeing the true nature of God, which is in Christ Jesus [Hebrews 12:1].

- **Move** closer to God ... and He will reveal His presence through visions!
- **Move** towards His will for your life ...
- **Move** towards excellence: in service, in worship, in praise, in obedience, in commitment, in faith ...
- **Move** obstacles out of your foresight ...
- **Move** circumstances from clouding your view ...
- **Move** past prior hurts and pains that cloud your ocular judgment ...
- **Move** past your grief and sorrow ...
- **Move** onwards towards an elevated realm of His presence ...
- **Move** onward toward higher heights and deeper depths in the Lord ...
- **Move** on past the dark clouds ... looking for a brighter day ... an uncloudy day!
- **Move** on pass your tears and fears ... it’s harder to see when you cry!
- **Move** past your sufferings and persecutions ... they serve only to block your view!
- It’s time for a **move** of God through the manifestation of the power of the Holy Spirit!