

# Forgiveness Can Move A Mountain

by Carter Conlon

---

*This sermon emphasizes the power of faith in God to move mountains and the importance of forgiveness as the foundation for effective prayer. It highlights the significance of believing in God's promises, the need to forgive others, and the transformative impact of receiving and extending forgiveness. The speaker delves into the story of a miraculous healing tied to forgiveness and the essential role forgiveness plays in our relationship with God and others.*

**Scripture:** Mark 11:22, Mark 11:23, Mark 11:24, Mark 11:25, Matthew 6:14, Matthew 18:21, Luke 17:3, 1 John 1:9, Ephesians 4:32, Colossians 3:13

**Topics:** "Faith to Move Mountains", "The Power of Forgiveness"

---

## Description

This sermon emphasizes the power of faith in God to move mountains and the importance of forgiveness as the foundation for effective prayer. It highlights the significance of believing in God's promises, the need to forgive others, and the transformative impact of receiving and extending forgiveness. The speaker delves into the story of a miraculous healing tied to forgiveness and the essential role forgiveness plays in our relationship with God and others.

---

## Transcript

Mark chapter 11 verse 22. It says so Jesus answered and said to them have faith in God For assuredly I say to you whoever says to this mountain Be removed and be cast into the sea and does not doubt in his heart, but believes that those things he says will be done He will have whatever he says Therefore I say to you, whatever things you ask when you pray believe that you receive them and That you and you will have them. So just these two verses of scripture.

Can you imagine if we actually believe this? The prayer meeting would not be something you had to beg people to attend on Wednesday night or whatever night I mean the people would be abandoning everything to come to the prayer meeting They would abandon the business of their day to go into the prayer closet and talk with God if we really really believe this You see what Jesus spoke is actually true. We do have this faith promised of God to move these mountains and I'm going to talk about the mountains in just a moment and Cause them to lose their their strongholds cause them to lose their influence to be cast into a place other than where they are and This incredible promise Whatever things you ask when you pray believe that you receive them and you will have them now that's in the context of James chapter 4 in verse 3 Remember James the Apostle who said you ask and you receive not because you ask amiss That you may consume it upon your lusts So in other words, you're if we're asking for something just

because we want to consume it upon ourselves That's an asking amiss and we may not receive what we ask for But when our our motivation is the advancement of the kingdom of God when our motivation is to live a life That's going to bring glory to his name and and perhaps live in a way that That we can be of some effect and pushing back the darkness That is trying to swallow the lives of our families and our friends and so many around us Then whatever we ask for we shall receive isn't that amazing when our motives are right when our lives are in order when we're moving Towards God's plan for our life not our own plan, but God's plan we can ask and we will receive now in the in Before he comes to this This point he's talking about He had just come back from entering into Jerusalem and he had approached a fig tree that That gave the appearance at least of covering gave the appearance of bearing fruit he walked up to the fig tree and I've always believed it was a type of Adam because you remember in Genesis chapter 3 when When the Lord came down into the garden and Adam had lost Adam I believe in Eve were covered with the glory of God That's why they didn't know they were naked just like Moses when he when he went into the presence of God He came out and his face was glowing I do believe because they spent time with the Living God that the reflective glory of God was upon them That's why they didn't need clothing and they were unaware of nakedness at this point But when they sinned against God when they when they bit into the theology that they could be godly without God They suddenly lost the glory of God and they became aware of their nakedness their bankruptcy And so what did they do? They went to the fig tree, which is has kind of a broad flat green leaf and they made skirts probably hats and The food exchange the glory of God for fig leaves Can you just imagine that how? Ridiculous Adam must have looked like it must have looked like he had a lampshade on his head And he had a grass skirt with fig leaves to cover himself and he exchanged the glory of God for this ridiculous Costume and it represents in a sense man's attempt to be godly in himself to cover his his struggles to cover his failings to cover his sin and ultimately it represents the Belief that we can be godly without God because that was the theological fruit that Adam and Eve actually bit into that they could become judges know as God is knowing that good in other words creating their own good and creating their own evil and the scripture says that Jesus was coming out of Bethany and going back up into Jerusalem and he was hungry and and I Honestly believe he was hungry for that the fellowship Not with Adam, but all of Adam's descendants. He was hungry.

He saw you into the future He saw me and there was at the hunger in the heart of God. Now. I know that God is complete in himself That's not even debatable.

He doesn't need anything. He's God He's fully complete just in being God, but he can also allow himself to have a need in other words Like for example, God can't forget anything, but he said through the prophet Isaiah. I will remember your sins no more In other words, God says I will cause myself to forget your sins.

Isn't that amazing? Although he's not capable of forgetting he can cause himself to forget although he could exist alone fully Existent in himself. He chose to create Adam and Eve. He chose to create us in in his image Because he wanted fellowship.

I don't I don't fully understand that mystery The Bible does say that it's a mystery that the angels desire to look into With all of the perfection in heaven with all the created beings around him Moving in unison with his will worshipping him not needing to be redeemed yet. His affection is on us and The angels see that and they they don't fully understand it. We must look so incredibly flawed And yet in the midst of it the the heart and affection of God is upon us and So coming is on his way to the final mission that his father had sent him to bring us back And he's hungry for that fellowship when he would come down in the garden and he would bring animals to Adam and say Adam What are we going to call this? I don't fully get that God knew what they were But yet he let Adam name them in the scripture says what Adam called them They're

still called that today and he was hungry and seeing a fig tree afar off in verse 13 It says having leaves he he went to see if perhaps he could find something on it And when he came to it, he found nothing but leaves for it was not the season of figs now The the writer is writing from the perspective of either himself or somebody else just observing Jesus doing this assuming that he's physically hungry Assuming that he's coming to the tree and the omniscient That means the all-knowing God doesn't know if there's any fruit on this tree I want to suggest that this is just an observation of his behavior, but he knew there was nothing on this tree It was not even the season of figs and so the Son of God with all of his power comes to this fig tree and And when he sees there's nothing on it He curses it in a sense and says let no one ever eat fruit from you again And his disciples heard it now if we take this at face value It makes the Son of God look exceedingly petty in other words.

He's approaching a tree. It's not the season for fruit He finds nothing on it, and then he curses it It's just a vain display of power in a sense unless he's teaching us something in this I believe honestly he's looking at this this foe covering as it is that that Humanity has tried to place upon themselves to in the in the sheer force of human will to get to get back into Relationship with God and to be godly by a human effort and it has its coverings you remember in Jerusalem The the Pharisees had these these fine coverings and these wonderful garments that they had concocted for themselves But on close examination there was no fruit It was all just a covering and when you got close you found envy you found pride there you found dead men's bones behind incredibly whitewashed exteriors and And so he said no one eat fruit from you ever again and In the morning when they passed by verse 20 It says they saw the fig tree dried up from the roots and Peter remembering said to him rabbi Look the fig tree which you cursed has withered away, and this is when he speaks to them have faith in God For assuredly I say to you whoever says to this mountain now the only mountain in the area is Jerusalem Now the fig tree is is kind of emblematic of the whole system of religion That's represented by Jerusalem of that time the system that had covered itself in its own religious fig Fig leaves as it is this this this mountain of deception It's not just the it's not just the deception of the the one fig tree, but it's the whole system that offered a deceptive Relationship with God it was just a an exterior covering that had no real reality to it And it was absolutely incapable of bearing the fruit that only God can bear in a person's life praise be to God and so Think that's a nice little fellow over there God bless you People don't usually cry when I preach anymore, so it's good to hear that So he says You can not only say this to the fig tree, but to the mountain not only not only Pray for anything deceptive in your own life anything that is offering covering That is is is not real. Yeah, you see we have power to say God This thing must be taken away from my life.

Don't let this thing deceive me any longer Don't let this this substance. That's falsely offering me comfort. Don't let it deceive me anymore.

I Have the power now to stand against this thing not just in my own personal life But in the lives of my family members, you know we see family members that are falling into certain patterns of even religion that doesn't really offer a covering and We can we have the power to stand and say Let no one eat fruit from you ever again our friends all around us that that are falling into traps of Addiction or whatever their behaviors are we have have power We have authority to stand against these things and say lose your ability to deceive them Did you ever know you could pray like that? You could pray for somebody that's fallen into a trap and you say in the name of Jesus I stand against this deception and and let my brother let my sister let my friend no longer eat No longer eat from this tree of deception any longer and then he takes it even farther It's not just the tree but the mountain It's it's a type of you and I coming here tonight and looking out on these prayer tablets at the mountain of despair That's all around us that the mountains of

deception that have been trapped people though The mountains of failed marriages where one of the partners has somehow fallen into the lie of believing that that somebody else other than my marriage Partner is going to satisfy the desire of my life or the desire of my heart This is a mountain that's in our society today and Jesus said not just the fig tree, but the mountain The mountain of course was Jerusalem that he was pointing at and you and I know that in 1870 the mountain was removed and cast into the sea all over the world and we know that and So he wasn't just speaking something idly said there's going to be a victory on the cross and and this victory I'm imparting this victory to you and I'm telling you if you have faith in God you can speak to this deception You can have authority in your prayers You can stand against the darkness if we don't believe this I think we're a people to be pitied in our generation I happen to believe that these are the words of the Son of God who cannot lie. He does not exaggerate He doesn't put a carrot on the stick in front of us that we can never attain we can it's always a foot in front Of it us we can't reach it No, it is truth. It is absolute truth But not just to the fig trees of deception these fruitless coverings that that are sent to deceive But the whole mountain and we're living in a in a generation where there there are there is a mountain of deception in this generation People are looking everywhere But to God trying to be God in their own strength trying to establish rules of good and evil and right and wrong apart from God Trying to be virtuous without the virtuous one abiding in their inward parts and Jesus said you I I'm going to give you the power if you have faith in God to say to the mountain Be removed and be cast into the sea.

However This kind of authority and prayer stands on the foundation stone of forgiveness Listen to this. He said therefore I say what to you whatever things you ask in prayer when you pray believe that you receive them and you will have them and verse 25 and Whenever you stand praying if you have anything against anyone forgive him That your father in heaven may also forgive your trespasses, but if you do not forgive neither will your father in heaven forgive your trespasses You know, we ask ourselves how important is it's funny Like he this incredible promise of cursing fig trees and moving mountains and then he just puts it all on the cornerstone of forgiveness because we are Ambassadors of a kingdom that is all about forgiveness father Forgive them as he's being he was beaten. He was betrayed.

He was lied about he was spit on he was mocked He was crucified and yet in the midst of all his pain. He says father forgive them. They don't know what they do this is a kingdom of forgiveness that you and I have been invited into as Ambassadors and so he puts the this power to pray on this cornerstone of forgiveness It's an amazing thing when you you begin to realize it, you know, and in Luke Not Luke, but in Matthew chapter 17 18 rather You know Peter came to the Lord Jesus Christ and he said to him Lord How often shall I my brother sin against me and I forgive him up to seven times now Peter was a fisherman.

He was a tough fisherman. I have no doubt about I have no doubt. He had a bad temper I've no doubt if you crossed him once you might get away with it If you crossed him twice your teeth what you're eating your supper with your gums that night.

I have no doubt about it And so he kind of he wants to please the Lord He wants to appear spiritual and she says how often shall I forgive my brother and he's Concocting this this thing is like seven times. I mean that's to Peter. That's way beyond reasonable That's the only God can do that seven times.

I mean, he just thinks nobody would ever get away with with Playing games with me seven times and Jesus said to him I did not say to you up to seven times but up to seventy times seven He's probably doing the math at this point. That's 490 times it's impossible with man It's only possible with God And he goes on to say therefore the kingdom of heaven is like a certain king who wanted to settle accounts with his servants When he had begun to settle accounts one was brought to him I owed him ten thousand talents

But as he was not able to pay his master Commanded to be sold and his wife and his children and all that he had and that the payment be made and the servant therefore Fell down before him saying master have patience with me and I will pay you all Then the master of that servant was moved with compassion released him and forgave him the debt But that servant went out and found one of his fellow servants who owed him a hundred denarii In other words what anybody owes us in comparison to what we owed God is so insignificant It's almost not worth writing it down But he laid hands on him and took him by the throat saying pay me what you owe You wonder how many people how many people have been forgiven by God in the body of Christ? But we still have somebody else by the throat Somebody in our past that abused us somebody that let us down somebody that wasn't there when we needed us somebody that spoke ill about us somebody that Maybe stiffed us for money, whatever it was We take him by the throat even though we've been forgiven such an incredible debt We are refusing to forgive those who have hurt us pay me what you owe So the fellow servant fell down at his feet and begged him saying have patience with me And I will pay you all and he would not but went and threw him into prison until he should pay the debt So when his fellow servants saw what had been done They were very grieved and came and told their master all that had been done Then his master after he'd called him said to him you wicked servant. I forgave you all that debt because you begged me Should you not also have had compassion on your fellow servant just as I had pity on you and His master was angry and delivered him to the torturers until he should pay all that was due to him.

So my heavenly father Also will do to you each of you if you from your heart does not forgive his brother his trespasses Now I want you to think about that. This is one of the harder portions of Scripture We'd rather gloss it over and not have to deal with it But I can't help but wonder because we have about almost 1,900 prayer requests tonight that have come in throughout the day in The last little while and when I look at it, I can't tell you how many people are tormented And you can't help but wonder Is there unforgiveness in the background? Is there somebody they have they've come for forgiveness to God because a lot of these people claim to be Christians But they're refusing to forgive somebody else along the way and Jesus did say if you're forgiven a great debt But you refuse to forgive somebody who has wronged you The end result is that you deliver to torment I think of all the all the people in marriages that are looking outside the relationship and and half the times There's there are problems in the past before even coming into the marriage There's unforgiveness there somewhere and they've refused to let it go now. I'm not suggesting that forgiveness Implies that what the person did to you was right? It's just a law in the kingdom of God we are built on this foundation of forgiveness Forgiveness is a command Trust is earned.

You don't have to trust somebody because you've forgiven them but You have to forgive them. That's the command of God When years and years ago I was I was transferred into the public relations department in the police Force where I worked and in the in the public relations department. There was a man called Tom He was about 35 years of age at the time and he had a fatal disease It was only a matter of time and he was going to lose his life and there was no cure for what he had and he had been transferred in just to answer the phone in the office until he was incapacitated and Then at at a certain point then he would have to go on Disability and then he was going to die and his prognosis was not very good.

He only really had a few years left to live. I Got to know Tom and and one day I'm passing through the office and he said Carter He said I just see something and I hear something in you and I'm not quite sure what it is What is it that I'm seeing I was able to share with him my testimony I was able to share the gospel of Jesus Christ and and in the office that day I led him to Christ as his Lord and Savior and we rejoiced together and it was just an awesome moment and Then I was only a few weeks later. Tom came

in the office one day says man.

You're not gonna believe this You're not gonna believe this. He's just beside himself I've been to the doctor and my disease is gone. It's absolutely Gone, there's no trace of it.

And the doctor said a secular doctor said to me Tom you have had a miracle He said this disease you have does not go away on its own. There is no known treatment for it. It is gone There's not a trace of it in your body.

You are cured. You are healed and he said Tom I have no explanation for what has happened to you, but I'm telling you you've had a miracle Secular doctor told Tom he did a miracle and you know, the funny thing is we never prayed for his healing Not if I could never even occurred to me at that point to pray for his healing We I talked to him about Christ. He opened his heart.

He received the forgiveness of God and I said Tom How do you think the healing we're just talking one day? I said, how do you think the healing in your in your life happened? Now, this is a brand new Christian. He doesn't have a whole lot of theology in his life But here's what he told me he said Carter when I was a boy my father was an evil man my father would stand me in a bathtub of ice-cold water take his belt off and beat me on the back and on my legs And on my buttocks until waltz broke out on my body. I Hated that man and he said I I lived to see him die in agony His father was still alive and he said I just lived to see him on his deathbed So they could walk in and just point my finger and gloat at him and saying you're finally getting what you deserve And he said the interesting thing is when I opened my heart and gave my life to Jesus I went home one night and I said God if you have forgiven me after all I have done I no longer have the right to hold this grievance against my father and he said the words I Forgive my father and he told me he said when the bitterness left my life the disease went with it As that's Tom's story and he had a miracle healing to back up his testimony So how important is forgiveness and why why would Jesus set this this mountain moving miracle power on this foundation of forgiveness? You see the the reasons are fairly obvious We are ambassadors of this incredible kingdom of forgiveness and we are completely unjustified to hold on to old grievances No matter what was done to us because surely nothing worse than that Which was done to Christ has been done to you or me We've all had people have let us down.

We've all had things that have been said We've all had people who weren't there when we needed them I get all of that but if we have received the forgiveness of Christ and We are willing to let go the debts the throats of others that owe us something even if they owe we feel at least they Owe us an apology if nothing else God says no take your hands off their neck and let them go and the promise that I make to you is that I'm going to Give you faith To see people around you set free. I'm going to give you faith to make a difference in your society I'm going to I'm going to move you into something of My spirit of my life that can only come from the presence of God inside of your life And so you asked me now the question who should I forgive first? Well before you even start thinking about anybody else It's so important that you receive the forgiveness of God as we always say at Times Square Church It's as easy as ABC just admit that you're a sinner and you need a Savior. Don't make it difficult say God I can't save myself.

I'm done with the false coverings in my own life I'm done trying to be good in my own strength because I can't and so Lord I recognize that you went to a cross and paid the price for my sin And so tonight I invite you into my life to be my my Lord and my Savior believe that God sent his son to die on the cross To take your place the punishment you deserve Jesus Christ took that punishment. Don't make it complicated You were guilty an innocent man took your place Suffered the punishment of the separation from God that you

deserved and I deserved and he did it because he loves you He did it because he had he was hungry for fellowship with you Remember Jesus approached the tree because he was hungry. He was hungry to have a living relationship with you That's why he came to this world not to condemn you.

He came to get you He came to pay the price so you could be restored to God and begin to confess with your mouth Jesus Christ as your Lord and your Savior firstly, you need to receive the forgiveness of God and Secondly, you need to forgive yourself Because you might have been the abuser You might have been the one that wasn't there when people needed you You might be the one That needs you see when you when you do come to Christ as your Savior you get kicked off the throne Of your own life. You're no longer the king or the queen anymore You're kicked off the throne Jesus Christ sits on that throne and he starts calling you his own and he calls you clean and he calls you forgiven matter of Fact in the Bible. He says you are as clean as God is through Jesus Christ the righteousness of God in Christ Jesus that's the way the Bible says it that means I'm as clean as God is through Jesus Christ He said to Peter one day when he was speaking with Peter the Lord said to him whatever I have cleansed Don't you call it common or unclean anymore? You have to learn to forgive yourself Because we've all made mistakes We've all fallen short of the glory of God We've all done things that we regret doing and sometimes people can receive the forgiveness of God, but they can't forgive themselves For what they have done.

You have to accept God's forgiveness and then forgive yourself And once you're operating it from that perspective, then you let go the debt that somebody else owes you Forgive and sometimes you have to trust God to forgive you have to ask him for the strength because we just can't do it in our own strength Ask God for the grace. I've been there folks. I know what I'm talking about I've been there.

I know what it's like to be living on the edge of not just unforgiveness, but actually hating somebody I know what it's like to need God to get me through that valley of the shadow of death and Bring me to a place where I can actually obey him and let go the debt It's take my hands off somebody's neck spiritually speaking and let them go and release them from the debt that that they owe me so I want to encourage you tonight to Accept the forgiveness of God those that are online and then forgive yourself and then forgive others Let it just let it go Let it go It's not worth hanging on to any longer You know that there's a story about a bear Coming up to a campfire and he finds a cauldron that's on the fire and he picks it up with his big paws and holds it then it starts to burn his chest and As it burns his chest he responds with instinct He doesn't he doesn't know enough to let it go so he holds it tighter And he doesn't know that the tighter he holds it the more it's going to burn his heart right out of his body It's going to kill him actually and we're like that with unforgiveness. We we grab something and we hold it and we feel Justified is even though it's hurting us. We don't want to let it go when God's Word tells us clearly if we will let it go I say to you Whoever says to this mountain be removed and be cast into the sea and does not doubt in his heart But believes that those things he says will be done.

He will have whatever he says This is the promise of God to you if you will receive his forgiveness tonight forgive yourself and forgive others a whole new realm begins to open to you a whole new way of living an Understanding of the power of God a release of his life within yours To pull down strongholds and everything that exalts itself against the knowledge of God To reclaim your family reclaim your sanity Reclaim your purpose in life

Source: <https://sermonindex.net/speakers/carter-conlon/forgiveness-can-move-a-mountain/>

# *Grow in Your Walk with Christ*

---

Listen and read messages that will stir your heart for Christ and point you to deeper repentance and devotion.

- 50,000+ Sermons from speakers past and present
- 3,900+ Classic Christian Books freely readable online
- 1,200+ Bible Translations and Commentaries
- Over 450k forum posts — Join our vibrant online Christian forum

**[www.sermonindex.net](http://www.sermonindex.net)**