

Making Mountains out of Mole Hills and Molehills out of Mountains

Points to Consider

1. Stop Making Mountains out of Molehills
2. Stop Making Mountain Ranges out of Mountains
3. Turn Mountains into Molehills

Stop Making Mountains out of Molehills

Sometimes we build things up in our heads as obstacles when they aren't. Sometimes we turn molehills into mountains.

1 Sam 25:23-27 *Now when Abigail saw David, she dismounted quickly from the donkey, fell on her face before David, and bowed down to the ground. 24 So she fell at his feet and said: "On me, my lord, on me let this iniquity be! And please let your maidservant speak in your ears, and hear the words of your maidservant. 25 Please, let not my lord regard this scoundrel Nabal. For as his name is, so is he: Nabal is his name, and folly is with him! But I, your maidservant, did not see the young men of my lord whom you sent. 26 Now therefore, my lord, as the Lord lives and as your soul lives, since the Lord has held you back from coming to bloodshed and from avenging yourself with your own hand, now then, let your enemies and those who seek harm for my lord be as Nabal. NKJV*

Abigail knew that Nabal was a _____ that did not deserve David's attention.

2 Sam 16:5-14 *Now when King David came to Bahurim, there was a man from the family of the house of Saul, whose name was Shimei the son of Gera, coming from there. He came out, cursing continuously as he came. 6 And he threw stones at David and at all the servants of King David. And all the people and all the mighty men were on his right hand and on his left. 7 Also Shimei said thus when he cursed: "Come out! Come out! You bloodthirsty man, you rogue! 8 The Lord has brought upon you all the blood of the house of Saul, in whose place you have reigned; and the Lord has delivered the kingdom into the hand of Absalom your son. So now you are caught in your own evil, because you are a bloodthirsty man!" 9 Then Abishai the son of Zeruiah said to the king, "Why should this dead dog curse my lord the king? Please, let me go over and take off his head!" 10 But the king said, "What have I to do with you, you sons of Zeruiah? So let him curse, because the Lord has said to him, 'Curse David.' Who then shall say, 'Why have you done so?'" 11 And David said to Abishai and all his servants, "See how my son who came from my own body seeks my life. How much more now may this Benjamite? Let him alone, and let him curse; for so the Lord has*

ordered him. 12 It may be that the Lord will look on my affliction, and that the Lord will repay me with good for his cursing this day." 13 And as David and his men went along the road, Shimei went along the hillside opposite him and cursed as he went, threw stones at him and kicked up dust. 14 Now the king and all the people who were with him became weary; so they refreshed themselves there. NKJV

David recognized that Absalom trying to kill him was the mountain they needed to deal with. Shimei was just a _____ stirring up a lot of dust.

Prov 19:11 *The discretion of a man makes him slow to anger, And his glory is to overlook a transgression.*

Some things are so small we should just _____ them.

1 Cor 13:4-8 *Love suffers long and is kind; love does not envy; love does not parade itself, is not puffed up; 5 does not behave rudely, does not seek its own, is not provoked, thinks no evil; 6 does not rejoice in iniquity, but rejoices in the truth; 7 bears all things, believes all things, hopes all things, endures all things. 8 Love never fails. NKJV*

Love thinks no evil and does _____ seek its own. Love doesn't make mountains out of molehills.

Stop Making Mountain Ranges out of Mountains

Sometimes we are dealing with mountains and not molehills.

Num 13:26-29 *Now they departed and came back to Moses and Aaron and all the congregation of the children of Israel in the Wilderness of Paran, at Kadesh; they brought back word to them and to all the congregation, and showed them the fruit of the land. 27 Then they told him, and said: "We went to the land where you sent us. It truly flows with milk and honey, and this is its fruit. 28 Nevertheless the people who dwell in the land are strong; the cities are fortified and very large; moreover we saw the descendants of Anak there. 29 The Amalekites dwell in the land of the South; the Hittites, the Jebusites, and the Amorites dwell in the mountains; and the Canaanites dwell by the sea and along the banks of the Jordan." NKJV*

Joshua and Caleb did not dispute the report that the people of the land were strong, the cities were fortified and that giants lived there.

Always _____ your mountains.

Always acknowledge other people's mountains.

John 16:33 *These things I have spoken to you, that in Me you may have peace. In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world." NKJV*

2 Tim 3:12-13 *Yes, and all who desire to live godly in Christ Jesus will suffer persecution. NKJV*

_____ Christians will suffer tribulation and endure persecution.

2 Cor 12:7-10 *And lest I should be exalted above measure by the abundance of the revelations, a thorn in the flesh was given to me, a messenger of Satan to buffet me, lest I be exalted above measure. 8 Concerning this thing I pleaded with the Lord three times that it might depart from me. 9 And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. 10 Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in needs, in persecutions, in distresses, for Christ's sake. For when I am weak, then I am strong.* NKJV

All Christians have their _____ set of obstacles.

Moses was slow of speech.

Gideon was the youngest son in a family from the _____ tribe.

1 Sam 17:33 *And Saul said to David, "You are not able to go against this Philistine to fight with him; for you are a youth, and he a man of war from his youth."* NKJV

David faced _____ obstacles: young age, lack of experience, small size, inferior strength, no armor, a simple weapon...

Mountains are _____, acknowledge them.

Turn Mountains into Molehills

Godly intelligent people live in God's reality.

Num 13:30-33 *Then Caleb quieted the people before Moses, and said, "Let us go up at once and take possession, for we are well able to overcome it." 31 But the men who had gone up with him said, "We are not able to go up against the people, for they are stronger than we." 32 And they gave the children of Israel a bad report of the land which they had spied out, saying, "The land through which we have gone as spies is a land that devours its inhabitants, and all the people whom we saw in it are men of great stature. 33 There we saw the giants (the descendants of Anak came from the giants); and we were like grasshoppers in our own sight, and so we were in their sight."* NKJV

Num 14:6-9 *But Joshua the son of Nun and Caleb the son of Jephunneh, who were among those who had spied out the land, tore their clothes; 7 and they spoke to all the congregation of the children of Israel, saying: "The land we passed through to spy out is an exceedingly good land. 8 **If the Lord delights in us**, then He will bring us into this land and give it to us, 'a land which flows with milk and honey.' 9 Only do not rebel against the Lord, nor fear the people of the land, for they are our bread; their protection has departed from them, and the Lord is with us. Do not fear them."* NKJV

Joshua knew that _____ was on their side and that the Canaanite's protection was gone.

Know God is on your side and _____ fearing your mountains.

1 Sam 17:24 *And all the men of Israel, when they saw the man, fled from him and were*

dreadfully afraid.

Saul and his army were dreadfully _____ of Goliath.

1 Sam 17:32 *Then David said to Saul, "Let no man's heart fail because of him; your servant will go and fight with this Philistine."* NKJV

1 Sam 17:34-37 *But David said to Saul, "Your servant used to keep his father's sheep, and when a lion or a bear came and took a lamb out of the flock, 35 I went out after it and struck it, and delivered the lamb from its mouth; and when it arose against me, I caught it by its beard, and struck and killed it. 36 Your servant has killed both lion and bear; and this uncircumcised Philistine will be like one of them, seeing he has defied the armies of the living God." 37 Moreover David said, "The Lord, who delivered me from the paw of the lion and from the paw of the bear, He will deliver me from the hand of this Philistine."* NKJV

Saul believed David was inexperienced. David knew he had the _____ experience to kill a giant.

David's experience was a faith _____ experience.

Matt 14:25-33 *Now in the fourth watch of the night Jesus went to them, walking on the sea. 26 And when the disciples saw Him walking on the sea, they were troubled, saying, "It is a ghost!" And they cried out for fear. 27 But immediately Jesus spoke to them, saying, "Be of good cheer! It is I; do not be afraid." 28 And Peter answered Him and said, "Lord, if it is You, command me to come to You on the water." 29 So He said, "Come." And when Peter had come down out of the boat, he walked on the water to go to Jesus. 30 But when he saw that the wind was boisterous, he was afraid; and beginning to sink he cried out, saying, "Lord, save me!" 31 And immediately Jesus stretched out His hand and caught him, and said to him, "O you of little faith, why did you doubt?" 32 And when they got into the boat, the wind ceased. 33 Then those who were in the boat came and worshiped Him, saying, "Truly You are the Son of God."* NKJV

Peter failed when he took his eyes off _____ and looked at the waves.

Practical Application

- Regardless of the size of the obstacle, never take your eyes off Jesus.
- Reflect on a time God delivered you through a difficult situation.
- When facing an obstacle, seek counsel from others to put that obstacle in perspective.
- Pray that God will prevent you from turning molehills into mountains or mountains into mountain ranges.