

**“Taking God at His Word”**  
Matthew 21:17-22  
Sunday Evening, March 3, 2019

**Introduction:** Before we look at our Scripture, I want to take a quick survey.

1. How many of you use the KJV of the Bible?
2. The NKJV?
3. The NIV?
4. The NASV
5. The Living Translation?
6. The English Standard Version (ESV)?
7. Some other translation?

**Question:** Which Bible translation is the most reliable? Which is the best translation?

**My Conviction:** The best translation is the translation that you can understand. One shoe size does not fit all people. The same is true with Bible translations.

**Things to Understand:**

1. “Every translation is an interpretation” (Dr. Curtis Vaughn—Southwestern Seminary New Testament professor would often say).
2. Every translation has its issues.

3. To say, “This translation is the best translation” is simply expressing your opinion. It may be the best translation for you, but not for everybody else.
4. The closest word-for- word translation of the Hebrew and Greek is the interlinear Bible. You will not read much of the Bible with the interlinear Bible.

In 2019, I am using the *Morning and Evening Bible plan* which I have never used before. I am doing my daily reading in the plan using the ESV translation which I have never used for my daily Bible reading.

- On February 21, I read Matthew 21 using the ESV translation.
- Tonight, I am using the ESV for that reason.

**Text:** Matthew 21

- Matthew 21 records Jesus’ final week.
- It records His triumphal entry into Jerusalem (21:1-11).
- It records Jesus cleansing the Temple (21:12-16).
- Then it tells us that Jesus left the Temple and went to Bethany to spend the night (21:17).
- Matthew 21:17-22

The disciples had a visual image of the Mount of Olives being lifted and cast into the sea. They understand that Jesus was saying that faith could rearrange the earth.

**T.S.** Jesus saw this as a teachable moment about prayer.

- Verse 21 is about prayer.
- Verse 22 is about prayer.
- The “key” to prayer is “faith.”
  1. “If you have faith...” (verse 21).
  2. “You will receive, if you have faith (verse 22).

**Application:** Matthew 21:22 is one of the most misused verse in the Bible.

- Name it and claim it teaching.
- Name it and claim it is having faith in faith.
- Faith in verses 21 and 22 refers not to having faith in faith, but having faith to take God as His word according to His will.

**The Key:** (SCREEN):

1. Taking God at His Word
2. According to His will

**Illustration:** 2 Corinthians 12:7-10

**Conclusion:**

1. Prayer is an expression of our powerlessness and complete dependence on God (v.8)

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2. The weaker we realize that we are, the greater the working of God's power through us (v.10).