



Moving Mountains One Hill at a Time!



Raising the Flag on Iwo Jima is a historic photograph taken on February 23, 1945, by Joe Rosenthal. It depicts six United States Marines raising a U.S. flag atop Mount Suribachi,^[1] during the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II.

The photograph was first published in Sunday newspapers on February 25, 1945. It was extremely popular and was reprinted in thousands of publications. Later, it became the only photograph to win the Pulitzer Prize for Photography in the same year as its publication, and came to be regarded in the United States as one of the most significant and recognizable images of the war.

Three Marines depicted in the photograph, Sergeant Michael Strank, Corporal Harlon Block, and Private First Class Franklin Sousley were killed in action over the next few days. The three surviving flag-raisers were Corporals (then Private First Class) Rene Gagnon, Ira Hayes, and Harold Schultz who first received Marine Corps recognition in June 2016.

The image was later used by Felix de Weldon to sculpt the Marine Corps War Memorial which was dedicated in 1954 to all Marines who died for their country past and present, and is located adjacent to Arlington National Cemetery just outside Washington, D.C. The original mold is located on the Marine Military Academy grounds, a private college preparatory academy located in Harlingen, Texas.

Strategic Relevance of Hills



The strategy in Vietnam was that of attrition, who would break first, and this was clearly evident during the hill battles. A hill can be a very advantageous and strategic location during a war. Since the elevation is higher than that of the surrounding area, a position atop of the hill can provide a large vantage point from whence direction and movement can be monitored by an advancing force. A hill also provides a very daunting task for the enemy who has to climb the hill, wearing out the unit, and then try to fight “upwards” which is a very big disadvantage.

A hill is a landform which has a distinct summit that extends above the surrounding terrain, in a limited area.

The distinction between a hill and a mountain is unclear and largely subjective, but a hill is generally somewhat lower and less steep than a mountain. In the United Kingdom it is popularly believed that the Ordnance Survey defines a "mountain" as a peak greater than 1000 feet (305 meters) above sea level

The most used phrase/idiom concerning hills and mountains is “You are making a mountain out of a mole hill.”

The idea for this phrase is this: You are taking something small, such as a molehill, and you are making it out to be bigger than it truly is. This expression is typically applied to problems people have. This saying is found in writing as early as the year 1660. It's written by James Howell in a lexicon book containing proverbs from many different languages, and inside the phrase is penned quite simply as:

"Making mountains of molehill."

You are not making the mountain you face from a molehill of a problem!

But to conquer your mountain...you might have to conquer some hills!

What about the Hill called Mount Calvary?

Calvary, also **Golgotha**, was, according to the Gospels, a site immediately outside Jerusalem's walls where Jesus was crucified. The Bible translates the term to mean *place of [the] skull*, which in Greek and in Latin is from which the English word *Calvary* is derived.

Luke 23:33 says, "And when they had come to the place called Calvary, there they crucified Him, and the criminals, one on the right hand and the other on the left" (NKJV).

- **Jesus was crucified on Mount Calvary. According to John 19:20, it was near Jerusalem.** Jesus was crucified outside the city in a maelstrom of activities over a six-hour period, with everything focused on Him.
- **Jesus was crucified on Mount Calvary, where a minimum of twenty-five events occurred between 9 AM and 3 PM.** Among them were the public execution itself; the soldiers offering him vinegar laced with gall; two thieves being crucified either side of Jesus; darkness falling over the land for three hours; the temple veil being torn in two from top to bottom;
- **Christ was crucified on Mount Calvary, where a minimum of ten decisions were made.** Among them: Jesus refused the vinegar-wine; the soldiers divided His clothes; Pilate asked for the centurion's guarantee that Christ had died;
- **Christ was crucified on Mount Calvary, where a minimum of sixteen statements were made.** Among them: Christ's seven words; Pilate's sign called him King of the Jews; the leaders and others mocked him for destroying the temple, but not saving himself; the thieves and soldiers abused him for what they perceived failures;
- **Christ was crucified on Mount Calvary, where many conversations were held.** The two recorded were the stirring dialogue between Jesus and the penitent thief and the rancorous dialogue between the priests and Pilate over the wording in Pilate's sign nailed above Christ's head.
- **Christ was crucified on Mount Calvary, where at least five requests were made.** Among them: the leaders asked Jesus to prove Himself by coming off the cross; Jesus asked John to provide sanctuary for Mary;
- **Christ was crucified on Mount Calvary where, in a sacrifice only He could make, He secured a victory only He could win.** A few verses recorded His sacrifice. All the volumes written since haven't contained its results.

You are the result of God's answer for your salvation...Live the Victory!

Golgotha =

- **The Jewish tradition and history - The “place of the skull” is where King David buried the head of the decapitated giant Goliath of Gath.** The Bible teaches that after David slew Goliath, he cut off his head and brought it the skull to Jerusalem:
“He ran, and stood over the Philistine, and took his sword, and drew it out of the sheath, and slew him, and cut off his head. And the Philistines seeing that their champion was dead, fled away. And the children of Israel returning, after they had pursued the Philistines, fell upon their camp. And David taking the head of the Philistine, brought it to Jerusalem: but his armor he put in his tent.” (1 Samuel 17:51–54)
- **This would explain why the “place of the skull” is oddly named “Golgotha.” The term is a corruption of Hebrew for “Goliath Gath”:**
Goliath Gath > GoliGath > GolGath > GolGatha
- **So King David killed the enemy of Israel (Goliath of Gath) and then brought the giant’s head to Jerusalem.** Jews would not have permitted the Gentile giant’s head to be buried in the city walls. It would have been buried *outside* the city walls. This matches with what we know about the location of *Golgotha*. It was outside the city walls.
- **The slaying of Goliath by David was one of the most important events in “Israelite history.”** The location of the giant’s head would have been known by all. Hence, “Golgotha” is likely the place of not just any old skull, but the place of the skull of Goliath of Gath.

A beautiful connection - Christ is the Messianic Son of David.

Our Lord Jesus Christ is constantly reaffirming that He Himself is the definitive, the true “Son of David”:

“And the chief priests and scribes, seeing the wonderful things that he did and the children crying in the temple and saying: Hosanna to the son of David, were moved with indignation,” (Matthew 21:15)

“And Jesus answering, said, teaching in the temple: How do the scribes say that Christ is the son of David?” (Mark 12:35)

Our Lord Jesus Christ crushed the head of Satan while he was on the cross (see Gen 3:15).

“And I will put enmity between you and the woman, and between your offspring and hers; he will crush your head, and you will strike his heel.”

Just as the shepherd David crushed the head of Goliath of Gath with a little stone, so Jesus Christ crushed the head of Satan.

Now, this same Jesus can crush your mountain that lays before you!

What mountain are you trying to cross now (What troubles you more than anything right now)? _____

Hill#1...Let the Lord know about it!

God is not hard-hearing. He listens as a father would listen to his son/daughter. He knows ahead of time what troubles you are enduring. He wants your acknowledgement of a problem.

Hill#2...The answer will require something from you.

Are you willing to take on the task God has for you to make sure the hill is removed in order to remove the mountain?

- This might mean you have to admit something you don't want to reveal; like forgiving someone for a wrong, like completing a commitment you have made to the Lord; like humbling yourself and giving your time, talent, and family to the Lord; like stop spending time Facebooking and spend time face to face with the Lord God.
- You know what it is that is keeping the hill from being conquered. Admit it...ask for God's goodness, God's guidance, and God's grace to be extended to you. You have to deal with the problem (hill) before you can face the mountain.

Hill#3...Build up your faith!

- I call it "Maximizing your faith." Read and heed the Word.
- You must realize that you are not to test the Lord God...He is to test you!
- He will not give you more than you can handle, but He expects you to build on and stretch the little faith you have to see that the hill is taken (problem is solvable in your mind).

Hill#4...Make Preparations to Charge the Hill!

Prayer, Penitence, Praise, Power Surge from the Holy Spirit

1. **Prayer**...Admit sins (sin of commission and omission);
2. **Penitence**...the action of feeling or showing sorrow and regret for having done wrong; repentance, remorse for the wrong committed or omitted
3. **Praise**...
To the God who forgave you and provided a way for you to conquer all hills leading to the conquering of the mountain.
4. **Power Surge form the Holy Spirit**
Remember, the Holy Spirit is a gentleman; one who does not force you to obey or play; pray or praise. He will give you exactly what is needed to conquer the hill or hills that stand between you and the mountain you are facing.

MOUNTAINS CRUMBLE BEFORE GOD!

- **Your mountain is one that God already knows how to conquer.**
- **God planned on conquering the mountain before you encountered the mountain (problem)!**

You say, “Why does He have us to go through it if He knows how to conquer it?”

He says, “I don’t have to answer audibly or even by my actions...the answer is in My Word!

- **Is it to help us help others going through the same thing?**
- **Is it to build our faith or tear down strongholds on our unwillingness to admit our sins/shortcomings?**
- **Is it to bring us to the alter of repentance and help us to be willing to accept His will for our lives?**

HE IS ALREADY PLANNING ON HOW YOUR MOUNTAIN(S) IS/ARE TO BE CONQUERED.

IF YOU ARE NOT WILLING TO ACCEPT HIS UNWAVERING AND STEADFAST ANSWER, HE WILL USE SOMEONE ELSE TO BLAST THE MOUNTAINS THAT STAND IN THE WAY OF VICTORY!

Do you now see that mountains can be conquered by taking one hill at a time?

Try conquering the hill before you take on the mountain. You may be surprised as to how the mountains fall before you when you do what the Word says.

Remember, studying the Word of God “Melts in your heart, not in your head.”

