

Use the Mustard Seed Principle

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“I say unto you, If ye have faith as a grain of mustard seed, ye shall say unto this mountain, Remove hence to yonder place; and it shall remove; and nothing shall be impossible unto you.”(Matthew 17:20).

Do you feel too small to do anything? Many people hesitate to act because they believe they’re too small, too weak, or too insignificant to make a difference. *Biblical History*, however, tells a different story.

Small Things Make a Big Difference

This example of the mustard seed is a *parable*. Jesus used parables to convey spiritual truths in relatable, memorable ways. Parables served as teaching tools, revealing the mysteries of the Kingdom of God to those who were spiritually prepared. A parable is also a *parallel* story. It’s a story that goes *alongside* a *principle* that teaches us a lesson. Jesus said, “Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? *It is* like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: ” (Mark 4:30, 31). This parable is a parallel of life-how little things make a *big* difference, “But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh *greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches*; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it.” (v.32)



Mustard seeds are the small round seeds of various mustard plants. The seeds are usually about 1 to 2 millimeters in diameter and may be colored from yellowish white to black.

You see this *Kingdom principle* in the following examples:

- Gideon against Midian. (Judges 6-8)
- Feeding the 5000 with 5 loaves and 2 fish (Mark 6:37-44)
- Saul. Smallest among the tribes became King. (1 Sam 9:21)
- Samuel chose David and he was small and young in Israel. (1 Sam 16:5-12)
- David was small but became great by using a *little* stone to kill the giant. (1 Sam 17).
- Elisha and the widow. A little oil paid her debt. What little you have can solve *big* problems. (2 Kings 4:1-37)
- A little faith can accomplish great miracles (Matthew 17)
- Church of God is called the “Little flock” (Luke 12:32). But *rocked* the planet with their message (Acts 17:6)
- Jesus Christ. This *One man* has impacted this world more than any other person in history.

God uses small things

Why does God use small things to make a great impact? Why did God use only 300 men to defeat that Midianites under Gideon whose, “family *is* poor in Manasseh, and I *am* the *least in my father’s house*.” (Judges 6:15); and Midian who were, “like grasshoppers for multitude; and their camels *were* without number, as the sand by the sea side for multitude.” (Judges 7:12)?

Why did the “little flock” of God make a huge impact on the world? To show everyone *that God was behind all of it*-that God gets the glory and that God, “ruleth in the kingdom of men,” (Dan 4:17). As the rulers of the Jews said about the church of God, “...for if this counsel or this work be of men, it will come to nought:

“*But if it be of God*, ye cannot overthrow it; lest haply ye be found even to fight against God.” (Acts 5:38-39). God will use you *because* you are small. He makes a work small to show that *God did it* and not a large amount of people.

Yield what *little you have to him* and he will apply the *mustard seed principle in your life* and do big and great things. The smallest seed produces the biggest crop. Small things multiply and produce big dividends.

Three Practices of the Mustard seed:

1. Being small is *not* a disqualifier. Do not think you are not good enough or not big enough. God called you to do a work in this world. Size does not matter. Stop worrying about the people who will judge you.
2. Being small is *desirable* not detestable. God's *will* must increase; *our will* must decrease as John the Baptist said about Jesus (John 3:30). Give God the glory in all you do.
3. *Being* small is not the same as *playing* small. David was small but played *big*. Consider Jesus' Healing of the blind man in John 9. With this little blind man Jesus created a big miracle (John 9:32). In your *small* little corner of the world let God create a *big miracle* that the only one who will get credit is him.

The truth is *no one is too small to do big things*. What matters are courage, persistence, and faith! Big things are simply small things done consistently, with conviction.

So the next time you wonder if your efforts matter, remember: the world's greatest changes started with someone who asked the *same* question—then chose to act anyway.

The Parable of the Kingdom

Ultimately, this parable shows that the preparation for the Kingdom of God has the *smallest* of beginnings—Yet that *ruling* Kingdom will ultimately *fill all the earth*.

Daniel wrote: “And there was given him [Christ] dominion, and glory, and a kingdom, that all people, nations, and languages, should serve him: his dominion is an everlasting dominion, which shall not pass away, and his kingdom that which shall not be destroyed” (Dan. 7:14).

The saints will inherit this Kingdom with Christ. “But the saints of the most High shall take the kingdom, and possess the kingdom forever, even for ever and ever” (verse 18).

What a magnificent destiny! What incredible glory! This is the mind-boggling future of all true Christians—to inherit all things as a part of the universe-filling Kingdom of God.

But look how small it all began! In all of Old Testament times, only a comparative handful of people were called to inherit the Kingdom of God. Men like Abraham,

Isaac, Jacob, Noah, Daniel and David. Women like Esther, Rahab, Sarah and others.

It was not until shortly after the death and resurrection of Christ that substantial numbers of people were called to the Kingdom of God.

On the day of Pentecost, A.D. 31, three thousand people were added to the Church; and from then on it grew or contracted in varying degrees throughout the centuries (Acts 2:41-47).

At this present time, God is adding to the Church those who are called to eternal life. By the return of Jesus Christ, thousands upon thousands shall have been added to that ever-growing body of Christ. It will then constitute the ruling family in the Kingdom of God. Eventually, all Israel and every human being who has ever lived will have had an opportunity for salvation. God is not willing that any should perish (2 Pet. 3:9).

Think of all the billions of people who have ever lived and realize that most of them will ultimately be added to the Kingdom of God. When it's all said and done, that Kingdom will finally fill the earth!

How appropriate is the parable of the tiny mustard seed which grows into a large shrub or bush in which the birds of heaven find shelter. That tiny seed produces a plant many thousands of times its own size — and so it will be with the Kingdom of God.