

Parables 6 – The Mustard Seed

Mark 4:30-32

³⁰He also said, “With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable will we use for it? ³¹It is like a mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; ³²yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade.”



You’re minding your own business...just stopped to grab a cup of coffee at Mr. Donuts when this guy comes up to you and says “I’m gathering people to do some important work and want to invite you to be a part of it.”

Odd as it seems to you there is something about the man and you agree to give him a couple of hours.

He points outside where you see a handful of people sitting on the outside table.

Where have they come from?

Paneras, Brueggers
some from recovery group meeting
one from Dirty Harry’s bicycle shop and older man at Otto’s shoe repair
two came from Kribb's Field and one from Riverside Park

The group is not much to look at and quietly you begin to doubt that anything will come of this.

The group of you cross past the Doughboy monument and head to the Dark Hollow Woods Trail. At the entrance the man sits down and begins to tell explain what this is about:

The kingdom of heaven has come near.

He says, “I bring good news of God’s love and forgiveness. Now is a great time to turn your lives toward God.”

And then he says

“The Spirit of the Lord is upon me,
because he has anointed me
to bring good news to the poor.
He has sent me to proclaim release to the captives
and recovery of sight to the blind,
to let the oppressed go free,

to proclaim the year of the Lord's favor."¹

There is something deep expressed in his words, and hopeful. And you sense energy stirring within you that is not just the caffeine from your coffee.

The man speaks gently and is unhurried, giving people a chance to soak in what he's saying.

It was then that someone in the group spoke up and said,

“We live in a time of big issues. There's the matter of debt. We're fighting two wars and are involved in a military action in a third country. Closer to home some of our communities have high rates of unemployment and an infestation of drug culture that is zapping life like a cancer. Some people are so busy that they don't have time to think about God. Others think that there is no God. Some have been deeply disheartened by the behaviors of those who are supposed to know something about God.”

And you begin to wonder what can be done?

It was then that the man looks on the ground and finds an acorn and he says, “the kingdom of heaven is like an acorn; it is small, but from it grows the mighty Oak trees of this woods and here animals of all sorts come and find safety here.”

It was then that something happened. People in the group began sharing stories of small things that made a big difference in their lives.

One man asked his wife a question that eventually led them to downsize and move into a smaller home.

A friend had spoken of her volunteer work and another friend decided to help with the Girl Scouts.

One person attended a class on money management and adopted practices that enabled them to get out of debt.

Someone was invited to have coffee with an acquaintance and a friendship developed that helped sustain them through the time of her husband's death.

And you find yourself realizing how many people feel stressed and depressed and would welcome the news of God's presence and love and the hope that God would work in their lives.

Suddenly a whole host of people come into your mind

A friend with cancer
A neighbor going through divorce
A couple struggling with growing older

¹ Luke 4:18-19

A young boy trying to find himself
A young girl feeling the pressure of doing things against her will
A young man whose been labeled a freak

Dark Hollow started from small seeds and grew into a wood because God gave it growth.

And then it hit you...you're a seed. And that it's not so much what's in you that matters; it's that God's power will work through you.

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