

## THE KINGDOM OF HEAVEN LIKE A MUSTARD SEED

**Mat 13:31** *Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field:*

**Matt 13:32** *Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof.*

Illustration: an aspirin tablet and a mustard seed. It is easy to have faith in the power of the white tablet because we associate it with the kingdom of medicine. In fact, most people do not know how painkillers work. They apparently work by blocking the effect of chemicals (enzymes) called cyclo-oxygenase (COX) enzymes. What if I told you that the mustard seed represents the kingdom of God which works by blocking the power of sin and releasing the power of Jesus Christ. That this tiny seed can grow to become a tree that is 20 feet tall or over 6 meters. Will you believe it? The painkiller is only good for one headache, but the mustard seed will continue to grow and grow in you and me. When I was a child, growing up in Saudi Arabia, I used to take aspirin tablets and bury them in the ground. One day, my mother asked me what I was doing. I answered that they will grow into trees. Forget tablets, not even proper seeds grow into the desert soil of Arabia. No wonder the doctor told my mother that I was a crazy kid. But one good thing I did – I stopped planting aspirin tablets and received the mustard seed, which is Jesus into my soul one day. Yes, the mustard seed is Jesus himself. The field is the human soul. Let us sow this mustard seed in the hearts of people around us!

**Zechariah 4:10** *For who hath despised the day of small things? for they shall rejoice, and shall see the plummet in the hand of Zerubbabel with those seven; they are the eyes of the LORD, which run to and fro through the whole earth.*

Note how small the mustard seed is! Most people would overlook it, but the Christian sees it and, more importantly, values it. The things of God are often small – but do not be fooled: the kingdom of God is within it. We are tempted to make an apology for the smallness of the mustard seed. If we were with Jesus, we may be tempted to make excuses for his shabby clothes and average look. “For he shall grow up before him as a tender plant, and as a root out of a dry ground: he hath no form nor comeliness; and when we shall see him, there is no beauty that we should desire him” (Isaiah 53:2). Make no mistake, however, in the seed is the kingdom of God. Jesus is really the seed himself. Just bring people to a place where they are willing to open their mouths by faith and receive the mustard seed. Everything they need is in the mustard seed. Salvation and eternal life is in the mustard seed. We cannot keep

talking about the mustard seed, describing its color, taste and potential power – we need to get people to open their mouths and receive the seed. Hallelujah!

Consider the faith of Amran and Jochebed the parents of Moses. “By faith Moses, when he was born, was hid three months of his parents, because they saw he was a proper child; and they were not afraid of the king's commandment” (Hebrews 11:23). Is there any parent who does not think his or her child to be “proper” or beautiful? The difference between them and other parents was that they had faith as small as a mustard seed. They hid the child and placed the child in the River Nile by faith. God took their mustard seed faith and directed the current of the river to the palace and Pharaoh's sister. The rest is history as they say. Will you return to your country, city and town and plant the mustard seed by faith? This mustard seed is not heavy – anyone can carry it discreetly. Tell people that this mustard seed, which is the identity and Gospel of Jesus Christ, will transform their hearts, minds and souls. Here are some of the benefits: “But the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, longsuffering, gentleness, goodness, faith, Meekness, temperance: against such there is no law” (Galatians 5:22,23).

***1 Samuel 16:11** And Samuel said unto Jesse, Are here all thy children? And he said, There remaineth yet the youngest, and, behold, he keepeth the sheep. And Samuel said unto Jesse, Send and fetch him: for we will not sit down till he come hither.*

The mustard seed is like David; he was so small that he was made invisible. Imagine if Samuel would have returned and complained to God “Why did you take me to Bethlehem? There was nothing there!” Bethlehem itself is a mustard seed in the sense that it is not the first time it hid something powerful. “But thou, Bethlehem Ephratah, though thou be little among the thousands of Judah, yet out of thee shall he come forth unto me that is to be ruler in Israel; whose goings forth have been from of old, from everlasting” (Micah 5:2). After one has tried every other seed and solution, it is easy to overlook the mustard seed because of its insignificant size. And yet David, the tiny seed, became the greatest king of Israel; even the Lord Jesus was referred to as “son of David” signifying the royal covenant. If only people knew the power of the mustard seed! We would be busy sowing it here and there.

***1 Cor 1:26** For ye see your calling, brethren, how that not many wise men after the flesh, not many mighty, not many noble, are called.*

Allow me to edify and encourage you here in London today. You've come from different parts of Europe and belong to small congregations. Do not look at the small size of your congregations, look to the mustard seed, Jesus Christ. Even if you become many, don't let the numbers fool you – the power is not in the numbers but in the mustard seed which is

Jesus Christ. There was a man God raised up to first bring the Gospel to Europe. His name was Saul of Tarsus. His Roman name was Paul, which means small. Here is one early description of Paul: “a man small of stature, with a bald head and crooked legs, in a good state of body, with eyebrows meeting and nose somewhat hooked, full of friendliness; for now he appeared like a man, and now he had the face of an angel.” The Romans may have called him small, but this small man was about to shake the entire Roman empire, not because of his power, but because the mustard seed, Jesus, was in him. “I can do all things through Christ which strengtheneth me” (Phil 4:13). The Philippians to whom Paul wrote these words had no doubt about this – Jesus shook the prison and released not only Paul and Silas, but all the inmates. These words meant something to the Philippians. They were not fooled by the small size of Paul. Let us not think that revival and greatness shall come through great people and great things. Let us look for the mustard seed.

***Jeremiah 45:5** And seekest thou great things for thyself? seek them not: for, behold, I will bring evil upon all flesh, saith the LORD: but thy life will I give unto thee for a prey in all places whither thou goest.*

Anyone can plant the mustard seed. Just focus on who Jesus is and his work. This will do the job. Don’t embellish, add something new or remove anything. Just administer the mustard seed and it will do its job. “In him was life; and the life was the light of men” (John 1:4). Can Jesus trust us to just plant Jesus in the field – the souls of people? Or will we begin to talk about someone else, or ourselves? “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. “And I, brethren, when I came to you, came not with excellency of speech or of wisdom, declaring unto you the testimony of God. For I determined not to know anything among you, save Jesus Christ, and him crucified” (I Cor 2:1,2). Not only do we plant the mustard seed in other fields, but we know what the mustard seed is still doing in our souls. Swallow the mustard seed and it will begin to grow in you and me. It will slowly occupy more and more space until it crushes the power of sin, releases its salvation into every nook and corner of our lives. Let the mustard tree dominate our lives – grow in us Jesus.