

Ordinary 27C

My son Matt climbed up an apple tree – an old tree (brittle tree)

Branches started to break and he was stuck – I get under him and say “jump Son”

He’s afraid – “Really? – Should I just let go?” YES So he jumped and I caught him and he was safe

FAITH – Jesus says we need faith – He says all we need is faith the size of a mustard seed

Why a seed? Why not faith the size of a grain of sand?

- **The power of a seed does not depend on its size, but on what’s inside it**
 - **The hidden life within it**
- **The power of our faith does not depend on its size**
 - **But on its quality**
- We delude ourselves when we think the more prayers we say = more faith
- We delude ourselves when we think the more good works we do = more faith
- It’s not about us and what we do – faith is about whether GOD is in us
 - How much have we let God enter our hearts?
 - Jesus is saying with faith we can do anything
- The truth is that as faithful people we will have still trials and troubles BUT
 - With faith we can deal with them
 - Just like when a storm is raging and the fish don’t dissolve in rough seas
 - So too a faith filled person lives amid temptation and trial and is safe
 - In fact – temptation and trial serve to strengthen our faith
 - If we want to grow in faith we need to use it
 - In times of trial and turmoil is when we learn to trust more
 - **TIM** – “God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power, love and self-control. Bear your share of hardship with strength that comes from God” IN FAITH, not FEAR
 - It’s in the heat of the battle, amid affliction, that your faith is tested.
 - How is iron strengthened – its put into fire, cooled, fired, cooled, ...
 - The strongest iron is fired 8x to make the finest sword
 - How many times have you been fired?
 - REJOICE in trial – that your faith may be made strong
- 2 Sides to faith
 - Faith not only empowers us to deal with trial
 - Faith also empowers us to work for a better world
 - **LK** – “If you had faith you’d have power to command trees to be uprooted and planted in the sea”
 - Jesus doesn’t want us to deforest Andros & litter sea with trees
 - He does want us to overcome obstacles and do great things for God
 - When we saw no church in No. Andros it bothered me
 - They called us to & we didn’t know about North (Haitians)
 - A few weeks ago – Jacques – “You’ll need a bigger bus”
 - **WHY DID WE GO – FAITH**
 - To overcome obstacles and do great things
 - It’s not easy – requires surrender
 - But our Father says JUMP