

## MUSTARD SEEDS

-Ryan Parsons-

Sometimes we doubt what God can do with us. As a result, we hold back. Sometimes, we disengage from his mission. In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus tells what is known as the "Parable of the Mustard Seed." He explains how the Kingdom of God, seemingly insignificant to the untrained eye, has unstoppable potential to grow and flourish. It will be so profoundly prolific that it will be a haven of hope and ministry to the world. That's exciting!

Mark 4:30-32

*30 And he said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown on the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth, 32 yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes larger than all the garden plants and puts out large branches, so that the birds of the air can make nests in its shade."*

Later, Jesus wants his followers to know that God can do extraordinary things with what is small and insignificant. This includes them.

Matthew 17:20

*20 ...For truly, I say to you, if you have faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there, 'and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you.'*

The embedded call is for all disciples to give him their hearts, minds and lives completely. So, while we doubt ourselves, we should never doubt God.

How, you might ask, could God bring about a kingdom revolution that continues more than 2000 years later (something impossible if up to mankind) with fishermen and tax collectors? Hello! We are talking about the God of Heaven who sustained a nation in the wilderness during the Exodus, delivered men from oppression using Gideon and a handful of soldiers, and slew a giant using the skills of a young shepherd boy named David. Over and over, throughout history, God has proved what the prophet Jeremiah confessed.

Jeremiah 32:17

*'Ah, Lord God! It is you who have made the heavens and the earth by your great power and by your outstretched arm! Nothing is too hard for you.*

Jesus wants us to know that while we might size up his kingdom and our abilities like tiny mustard seeds, nothing is impossible for God. He can when we cant! Don't hold back. Give yourself to Him in faithful obedience and see what he can do!