

*He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32 (NIV)*

## **Small Beginnings**

**How do you feel about a day of small beginnings?** That is a question that I've never considered. **It takes a lot of faith to believe when something is very small and just starting out. The potential and possibilities can't even be seen. Only the eyes of faith can see them. Take yourself for example. I sowed a tiny seed of faith in you. Do you think anyone knew or took notice?** No, certainly not. Nothing they could see about me would ever indicate that faith would grow and flourish in me. **Who would you say was most surprised to see faith growing and flourishing in you?** That would be me, that is for sure. **Isn't it interesting that the seed of faith I planted in you was so small that not even you could perceive it? Yet, there were those who took you on as a faith challenge. They had just enough faith to pray for you. They believed that one day you would turn around and give your life to me. Yes, they did. Look at you now; you have come from having no faith in me at all to being a person that I can use to encourage others to come to me in faith. Yes, and I am so very thankful for that.**

**Well, that brings me back to the question that we started with.** Ask me again. **How do you feel about a day of small beginnings?** I'm not exactly sure what you mean by that. **What if I gave you a small assignment? Would you take it on?** I'm pretty sure that I would. **That does not sound like a very strong commitment.** No, I suppose it doesn't. If I could have just one thing from you then I'm certain that I would take on whatever assignment you give me. **What's that?** I would want to know for certain that you were really asking me to do something for you. Then it wouldn't matter to me how large or small the assignment from you was. It would be enough for me to know that I was doing what you were asking me to do. **That's it? That's all you would need?** Yes, that's it. **Why would that be enough for you? There has to be something that you aren't telling me.** Yes, there is. I know that you will help me to do whatever you have given me to do whether it is a small or large assignment. **Yes, I will.**

**You used an interesting word there.** What's that? **You used the word "seems".** Yes, I did. **Tell me why you did?** I know what seems small or what seems like a day of small beginnings may not be small at all. **What do you mean by that?** Well, when a carpenter called twelve men to follow Him that may have seemed like a day of small beginnings. But, in reality it was God coming to earth to plant seeds of faith that changed the world forever. **Yes, it was. What does that have to do with you?** You planted your seed of faith in me. **Yes, I did.** Now, you may want me to plant seeds of faith in others. It would be a mistake to think of any assignment from you as a day of small beginnings. **Yes, it would. I am pleased that you understand this.** So, Lord I'm saying to you now, that I will do anything and everything you give me to do for you.

*Lord, you planted your seed of faith in me. It was a day of small beginnings. Thank you for nurturing faith in me so that it could grow. Use me now according to the faith you have given to me, to accomplish your purposes and plans. Amen*

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches."

NIV Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

Here is another illustration Jesus used: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches."

NLT Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

He put before them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that someone took and sowed in his field; it is the smallest of all the seeds, but when it has grown it is the greatest of shrubs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

NRSV Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

Another story by way of comparison He set forth before them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field. Of all the seeds it is the smallest, but when it has grown it is the largest of the garden herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and find shelter in its branches.

AMP Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

He presented another parable to them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field; and this is smaller than all other seeds, but when it is full grown, it is larger than the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that THE BIRDS OF THE AIR come and NEST IN ITS BRANCHES."

NASB Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

He put another parable before them, saying, "The kingdom of heaven is like a grain of mustard seed that a man took and sowed in his field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but when it has grown it is larger than all the garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and make nests in its branches."

ESV Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

Another parable He put forth to them, saying: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and sowed in his field, which indeed is the least of all the seeds; but when it is grown it is greater than the herbs and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and nest in its branches."

NKJV Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

Another story. "God's kingdom is like a pine nut that a farmer plants. It is quite small as seeds go, but in the course of years it grows into a huge pine tree, and eagles build nests in it."

MSG Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

Here is another of his illustrations: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like a tiny mustard seed planted in a field. "It is the smallest of all seeds but becomes the largest of plants, and grows into a tree where birds can come and find shelter."

TLB Matthew 13:31-32

**Parables** *The Mustard Seed*

Then Jesus told another story: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed that a man planted in his field. That seed is the smallest of all seeds, but when it grows, it is one of the largest garden plants. It becomes big enough for the wild birds to come and build nests in its branches."

NCV Matthew 13:31-32

# The Mustard Seed

Year \_\_\_\_\_ Week \_\_\_\_\_ Day \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

**Parables** – Matthew 13:31-32

**In Context:** *Read Matthew 13*

**Begin With Prayer:**

***Here I am Lord. I Am Listening.***

**Meditating On God's Word:** ***(What is God speaking to your heart?)***

He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. Though it is the smallest of all your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32

**Considering The Words:** ***(What words speak to your heart?)***

He told them | another parable: | "The kingdom | of heaven | is like | a mustard seed, | which a man took | and | planted | in his field. | Though it is | the smallest | of all | your seeds, | yet when it grows, | it is the largest | of garden plants | and | becomes a tree, | so that | the birds | of the air | come and perch | in its branches." Matthew 13:31-32

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**Praying The Scripture:** ***(What prayer from your heart will you write?)***

Lord, you planted your seed of faith in me. It was a day of small beginnings. Thank you for nurturing faith in me so that it could grow. Use me now according to the faith you have given to me, to accomplish your purposes and plans. Amen

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**What It Means:** ***(What questions speak to your heart?)*** *(Suggested questions for small group discussion are in bold)*

How did Christ go about planting the seed of faith in you so that it would take root in you?

**How is has the seed of faith that Christ has planted in you continued to grow little by little, day by day?**

**What has Christ been able to do through you because His seed of faith has grown in you?**

Why was Christ's planting the seed of faith in you not by random chance but according to His purposes and thought?

**How have you allowed Christ to nourish and care for the seed of faith that He has planted in you?**

How have others been able to benefit from the life of faith that Christ has nurtured in your life?

How has Christ used very ordinary men and woman to change the world by the seed of faith He planted in them?

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**Living It Out:** ***(What action step is God guiding your heart to take?)***

Allow the seed of faith that Christ has planted in you to grow so that He can use you to change the world for Him.

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**Seeing It Happen:** ***(What are you trusting God for in your heart?)***

Have faith that Christ, who planted the seed of faith in you, will be able to accomplish great things through you.

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**Get Ready To Share:** ***(What can you share with others from your heart?)***

Share with another person or your small group what Christ's seed of faith growing in you has done for you and others.

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**Close With Prayer:**

***Quiet Yourself Before The Lord***

*Pause And Offer Prayers Of...*

*With An Attitude Of Faith Listen To What The Lord Wants To Say To You*

Adoration... \_\_\_\_\_

Thanksgiving... \_\_\_\_\_

Confession... \_\_\_\_\_

Intercession... \_\_\_\_\_

Petition... \_\_\_\_\_

