DIGGING DEEPER

Small Beginnings, Persistent Faith:
The Power of What God Plants in You

27 Sept 2026

What if the smallest, most overlooked things in our lives are actually the starting point for something extraordinary? That is the question at the heart of the parable of the mustard seed, where Jesus compares the kingdom of heaven to a tiny seed that grows into a towering plant large enough for birds to nest in its branches. This teaching challenges us to stop waiting until we feel ready, gifted enough, or confident enough, and instead to be faithful with what is already in our hands. Just as Moses had nothing more than a shepherd's staff and yet saw God use it to part seas and trigger plagues, we are reminded that God is in the business of taking small, ordinary things and growing them into something far beyond what we could imagine. Ephesians 3:20 echoes this truth, pointing to a God whose power working within us can accomplish infinitely more than we might ask or think. The seed does not grow by sitting in the sun with nothing to do. It gets buried, it waits, and it is tended with care. That process of planting, protecting, and persisting is where transformation begins. If there is a dream, a gift, or a calling stirring in your heart that feels too small to matter, this message is an invitation to reconsider. Start with what you have been given. Water it. Protect it. And trust the One who makes things grow.

1.	The parable of the mustard seed teaches that the kingdom of heaven begins small and grows into something mighty -- what is a small gift, dream, or calling that God has placed in your life that you may have been underestimating or neglecting?	**2.**	Pastor Heather drew a contrast between her hydrangea that died and her mother's that thrived through intentional care and protection -- in what ways are you actively nurturing the seeds God has planted in you, and in what ways might you be simply hoping for the best?
3.	Moses had a shepherd's staff -- a simple, ordinary object -- that God used to accomplish extraordinary things; what ordinary resource, skill, or position in your life might God be waiting for you to surrender to His purposes?	**4.**	Pastor Heather noted that Zechariah 4:10 warns against despising small beginnings -- what attitudes or cultural pressures make it difficult for you to value and invest in something that appears insignificant or slow-growing?
5.	The parable of the persistent widow uses an argument from lesser to greater -- if an unjust judge eventually responds to persistent requests, what does that tell you about how God views your repeated prayers, and does that change how you approach prayer?	**6.**	Jesus connects persistent prayer with faith at the end of Luke 18, suggesting that continuing to pray for the same thing is itself an act of faith -- how does this reframe the way you think about prayers that have not yet been answered?
7.	Pastor Heather described the feeling of being buried underground like a seed, surrounded by darkness, and said that being buried is not the same as being forgotten -- have you ever experienced a season that felt like burial, and how did that season ultimately shape your growth?	**8.**	The widow in the parable was asking for a just cause, not a self-serving one -- how do you discern whether the desires you are persistently praying for are aligned with God's character, and how does that discernment affect your confidence in prayer?
9.	Both parables involve a period of waiting -- the seed growing slowly and the widow returning again and again -- what is the difference between waiting passively and waiting with active faith, and which posture do you tend toward?	**10.**	Pastor Heather closed by inviting people to pray together over longings they have already prayed for a thousand times -- what is the spiritual and communal significance of bringing others into prayer over something deeply personal, and how does shared intercession strengthen faith?

Remember... "Don't give up because it seems small or you might think that it doesn't matter. It matters to God."