

# RIDDLES

Christian Center Church  
Midweek Connection  
November 1  
7:00 PM

## The Parable of the Insignificant

**Never discount small beginnings –**

**In the Kingdom of God small beginnings always lead to supernatural endings**

While the mustard seed is not the smallest seed known to man, it was the smallest seed planted in the gardens of Jesus' day

- The mustard seed itself is very tiny
- It takes about 750 of them to make up a single gram
- There are 28 grams in an ounce
- That would mean that there are some 21,000 mustard seeds in an ounce

**The Kingdom of God is Built by “Insignificant” People**

**Matthew 23:11-12**

**But he that is greatest among you shall be your servant. 12 And whosoever shall exalt himself shall be abased; and he that shall humble himself shall be exalted.**

**Jesus was born in the obscure town of Bethlehem in abject poverty**

**Micah 5:2**

**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.**

**He was raised in Nazareth of Galilee – a town considered to be wicked and worldly by the Jews – nobody believed anything or anyone good came out of Nazareth**

**John 1:46**

**And Nathanael said unto him, Can there any good thing come out of Nazareth? Philip saith unto him, Come and see**

**John 7:52**

**They answered and said unto him, Art thou also of Galilee? Search, and look: for out of Galilee ariseth no prophet.**

**If you were to look at the resume of Jesus today – most would discount it as a resume of a man who was insignificant and unsuccessful**

Yet in the midst of all this seemingly insignificant and unsuccessful resume of a ministry

- You have the Son of God Who has built a universal church of blood bought believers from every continent in the world

**Matthew 16:18**

**I will build my church; and the gates of hell shall not prevail against it.**

**At the time of His ministry – I don't believe anyone could see that tiny seed Jesus was sowing would become this universal church that cannot be silenced and cannot be stopped**

- By the time the Day of Pentecost came around – after His death and miraculous resurrection – there were still only 120 devoted followers

But on the Day of Pentecost – something amazing happened

- When the Holy Ghost fell and the disciples were baptized in the Holy Ghost
- The same man who just a few weeks before had cursed and sworn that he had never even met Jesus – let alone followed Him stood and preached under the anointing of the Holy Ghost – look at the result

**Acts 2:41**

**Then they that gladly received his word were baptized: and the same day there were added [unto them] about three thousand souls.**

A short time later another 5,000 were saved at one time

## **Acts 4:4**

**Howbeit many of them which heard the word believed; and the number of the men was about five thousand.**

- The church began to grow at an astounding rate
- It wasn't many days until the church in Jerusalem is said to have numbered some 50,000 people

It all began with Jesus – in His simplicity and insignificant band of disciples

**God has a way of bringing great things out of small beginnings**

**Look at David in the Old Testament – he was a mustard seed**

- The youngest of Jesse's 8 boys
- When God called Samuel to anoint the new king out of the house of Jesse – David wasn't even invited to the party – Jesse didn't even think he was worth being considered
- Yet – God took this mustard seed and made a giant-killing king out of his life
- David has gone down in history as one of the greatest kings in the history of Israel

**I preached on Gideon Sunday – the weakest man in the weakest clan of Israel**

- He is living in a spiritually backslidden nation and even more than that – living in an idolatrous backslidden family who is the poorest family in the region
- Yet God takes this mustard seed and makes him into a military genius defeating 135,000 Midianites with a mere 300 men

**God can take someone who seems insignificant and make something great out of them!**

**The question is – what can God do with your life?**

I feel led to tell you tonight – you may have had a mustard seed beginning in your life

- According to the Bible, you were a sinner

## **Romans 3:23**

**For all have sinned, and come short of the glory of God;**

- According to the Bible, you were under a death sentence and you were headed to Hell

## **Romans 6:23**

**For the wages of sin [is] death; but the gift of God [is] eternal life through Jesus Christ our Lord.**

But I love how the Apostle Paul penned these words

## **Ephesians 2:4-8**

**But God, who is rich in mercy, for his great love wherewith he loved us, 5 Even when we were dead in sins, hath quickened us together with Christ, (by grace ye are saved;) 6 And hath raised [us] up together, and made [us] sit together in heavenly [places] in Christ Jesus: 7 That in the ages to come he might shew the exceeding riches of his grace in [his] kindness toward us through Christ Jesus**

God planted you in Jesus so you could bear the fruit you were created to bear for the glory of God

## **Zechariah 4:10**

**For who hath despised the day of small things?**

**It doesn't matter how you begin – it only matters how you finish**

**Action point #1: You Must Be Planted**

## **Matthew 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:**

**When the tiny mustard seed is planted in good soil – it germinates and produces a very large shrub-like plant that eventually grows to resemble a tree**

**There is no limit to what God can do in your life when you are planted in the right position**

**The seed that is never planted is the seed that will never produce**

The growing of the seed is completely dependent on the sowing of the seed

**The reason many people never grow into who God has designed for them to be is because they are more interested in bringing their need than they are bringing their seed**

- I feel like I am talking to someone tonight in saying – the problem is not the seed within you – but it is the soil in which you are planted

**You can have good seed – but if it is planted in bad soil – it will never grow**

**John 12:24**

**Verily, verily, I say unto you, Except a corn of wheat fall into the ground and die, it abideth alone: but if it die, it bringeth forth much fruit.**

**The seed has to die to its current status so it can become something greater than it already is**

**If you are living within the grace of God – then the greatness of God lives within you**

**Action point #2: You Must Be Positive**

- You cannot minimize what God can do within you
- Too many people minimize themselves by what they say – how they think – how they live
- If you really believe that you have the seed of the greatness of God within you – then live like it

**It is not enough to believe that you have the seed of the Kingdom within you – you must behave like you do!**

**Action Point #3: You Must Produce**

Look what the seed of the grace of God has done to the world

**Matthew 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.**

- This tiny seed grew into an immense plant
- Its branches spread themselves abroad offering a place for the birds to rest
- In the shadow of that plant the birds found shelter from the storms; rest from their weariness and shade from the heat of the sun

This humble seed produced a plant that gave rest and shelter to the birds of the air

The humble mustard seed produced a plant that had many uses among the human community as well.

- People gathered its leaves and served them up as food.

- The seeds were crushed and used as a condiment; the pungent flavor enhancing the bland diet of the people.
- Those seeds were also used as a medicine.
- **They were crushed and mixed with other things to make antidotes for snake, scorpion and spider bites.**

**Just as the plant in this parable brought shelter to the birds – so the Kingdom of God has provided shelter for those who have turned to Jesus.**

Why do I tell you all of that – because Jesus said:

**Luke 17:21**

**Neither shall they say, Lo here! or, lo there! for, behold, the kingdom of God is within you.**

We as the Ambassadors to the Kingdom are to provide spiritual shelter for Likewise – you are here to provide shelter for people in their time of storm