

Mustard Seed Beginnings

Luke 17:5-10; Lamentations 3:19-26 10-03-2010

There is a little song in our hymnal that sings:

*It only takes a spark to get a fire going,
And soon all those around can warm up in its glowing;
That's how it is with God's love, once you've experienced it:
You spread its love to everyone, you want to pass it on.*

And, there is a little saying that reminds us that the “Mighty oak was once a little acorn.” Or, as someone once said to me, “The mighty oak was once a little nut that held its ground.”

That little saying and the song remind us that from very little beginnings something great can develop. Both tie in well with the story of the little mustard seed and the size of our faith.

Jesus seems to be telling his listeners that they do not have to possess a faith as big as all outdoors to accomplish great things. He seems to be saying that even if they have just a little they would be able to move mountains. I guess this told them and us that our faith is not very big at all and that we are lucky to have any. He is asking us to pause for a moment and reflect on just how much we possess. If it is tiny, we always have the opportunity to nurture and grow it.

into something bigger. But, no matter what the size of our faith, if we are wise in our use of it, good things will be produced.

Faith is defined as, “the confident belief or trust in the truth or trustworthiness of a person, idea, or thing.” Where would we be without faith in ourselves? How would we be able to face each new day? Sometimes our faith falters and we pull back in fear and close our self off from the world around us. We have some down time and, I believe, we are allowed this. But, we usually manage to regroup and overcome our fear to move forward once again. Every time we do this our faith grows a tiny bit.

Where would we be without faith in others? I always believe that people have the best interests of others at heart. I trust them to do what they say they will do. Am I ever disappointed? Oh, yes. But that never destroys my faith. Sometimes, if we believe in others they surprise us and handle things better than we ever would have imagined. Every time we are surprised by an outcome that is far better than we expected, our faith grows a little.

Where would we be without our faith in God? Probably not in this place. Whether we point to our faith in God as helping us get through life or not, there is something that nudges us to know that there is something bigger than ourselves that helps sustain us. Although we cannot get a grasp on God, we know, as believers that our Creator is present

in our lives and in every life. We are reminded of this in a verse from the Letter to the Hebrews which says, “Now faith is the assurance of things hoped for, the conviction of things not seen.”

Faith has seen many people through terribly difficult times in their lives. It bears us through earthquake, wind and fire. It sustains us through the loss of a loved one, the loss of a livelihood, the loss of a home and through many, many dark nights of the soul. It often tells us that if we can endure the hardships of life we will come out on the other side. It tell us that we must never just let go and give up.

Should we worry about not having even enough faith to uproot a mulberry bush and throw it into the sea? Or, that we have so little faith that we cannot move the heavy carpet of leaves blanketing our lawns by just ordering them away? No, we must be grateful for the faith we have, discover it and encourage it so that we can see the world around us and the people in it and our God with fresh new eyes every day we are here on this earth.

We need to be grateful that from little things great things can grow and flourish and we should rejoice that we can have a hand in making all things new again. Amen