

## **“The Transforming Power of God”**

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The parable of the mustard seed is one of the most well-known and beloved narratives in the Christian context, and its popularity often overshadows its deep meaning.

This story, shared by Jesus in the Gospel of Mark, is not simply a lesson in the importance of the small; It is an invitation to reflect on the very nature of the Kingdom of God and our role within it.

To hear a new message from this portion of the Gospel you have to pay very intentional attention, you have to listen with your ears and with your heart.

The mustard seed, as an illustration, plays an essential role in the parable due to its tiny and seemingly insignificant size. In a world full of uncertainty and confusion, it is natural for us to wonder why the Kingdom of God, that divine manifestation of love and grace, often seems so distant and invisible.

Let's imagine a small mustard seed, barely visible in the palm of your hand. This seed, so tiny and seemingly insignificant, is the perfect metaphor for followers of Jesus. They are a practically itinerant group of people, with their own doubts and fears, unable to fully understand the message of Jesus. Even so, God calls them, chooses them, uses their strengths, their talents and even their weaknesses to proclaim the Kingdom of love that God has wanted for his children since the creation of the world.

The parable of the mustard seed teaches us that the Kingdom of God does not depend on apparent greatness or strength, nor on the perfection of his followers as they have often wanted us to believe. On the contrary, the parable is built on the basis of the small, humble and seemingly insignificant.

God takes the smallest seed and transforms it into a large, leafy plant that provides sustenance and shelter to all. In the same way, our seemingly insignificant lives can

make a big difference if we live them for the Gospel, if we live them with intention, if we trust that from the smallest things He can do great things.

This parable is grounded in reality while encouraging followers of Jesus, those of yesterday and today, and reminds us that our faith does not have to be great or powerful to be meaningful. God can and will use even our doubts and fears to carry out his plan of salvation. All it takes is a little faith, just a little, and God will take care of the rest.

But this parable also challenges us to look beyond appearances and trust in God's power and faithfulness, not our own. Although the Kingdom of God may seem small and insignificant in the present, Jesus assures us that it is constantly growing, even when we cannot see it with the naked eye, when the challenges and pains we face in this mortal and broken life would have us believe it. contrary.

The allusion to harvest day also deserves our attention. Jesus warns us that there will be a day of harvest, when God will separate the righteous from the unrighteous. This division will not be arbitrary, but will reflect the state of the human heart and the response to God's grace and love. But it is not a day that we should fear, but a day that we should long for, because the final judgment and the love of God are not separate or contradictory things but rather go together.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to live in the light of this truth. The call is always to persevere in faith, trusting that God is working in our lives and in the world, even when we cannot see it clearly, when it seems that nothing is happening. There are moments of silence and waiting that are not very encouraging; However, they are necessary and can be beneficial, because in those moments of just being and being, God is also working and the seed does not stop growing.

This time after Pentecost, when the great liturgical festivals have passed (Lent, Easter, Pentecost), is a long period that goes until the feast of Christ the King (before beginning the new liturgical year with the season of Advent). The beauty of the time after Pentecost is that it challenges and invites us to see the many ways in which God works

in our daily lives, in the day to day, in the ordinary, in the same way that day by day the seed grows and spreads. transforms, gaining strength and vitality until it germinates and is ready for harvest.

It is important to be alert and prepared for harvest day, making sure that we are on the side of those who have received the Kingdom with humility and obedience, making sure that we put our faith, our doubts, even our challenges in the service of the King and his kingdom. The eternity that God has promised us has already begun, and seeing God's work grow and strengthen in our lives every day, and in every detail, is a beautiful process.

Ultimately, the parable of the mustard seed challenges us to reflect on our relationship with the Kingdom of God, with ourselves and with others, as a Church, as a people of God. Some questions can guide us in reflection to help us think about the richness of this well-known and at the same time significant parable: Are we growing in our faith and trust in God or are we stagnating? If we are stuck, what is stopping us?

Discouragement, disbelief, an unfavorable experience from which we cannot escape, or distrust? Are we living in anticipation of harvest day or are we distracted by the cares and temporary pleasures of this world? Is harvest day a day we fear or one we look forward to with longing and hope? Answering these questions can say a lot about our spiritual health, it can help us recalibrate.

May this parable inspire us to embrace our smallness and trust in the transforming power of God. May we be like the mustard seed, growing in faith and trust each day, until harvest time arrives and we stand before the throne of God. May we be like the farmer who trusts in the constant growth of the seed, knowing that the power and faithfulness of God are at work in our lives and in the world around us.