



THE MITE IS MIGHTY

a church in the World

ABSTRACT

Have you ever played musical chairs? ...

December 1, 2024

Contents

PASSAGE: MATTHEW 13:31 – 32	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
NOTES	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
RESEARCH	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
WHAT IS THE AUTHOR SAYING TO THE AUDIENCE?	ERROR! BOOKMARK NOT DEFINED.
SCRIPTURE OF THE DAY	2
INTRODUCTION	2
BODY	2
MUSTARD SEED KNOWLEDGE	3
FAST GROWTH.....	3
TOUGHNESS.....	3
THE GREATEST.....	5
THE OVERTHROW OF ROME.....	5
CONCLUSION	6

Scripture of the Day

Psalm 103:17 – 19

*¹⁷ But the steadfast love of the Lord is from everlasting to everlasting on those who fear him,
and his righteousness to children's children,*

*¹⁸ to those who keep his covenant
and remember to do his commandments.*

*¹⁹ The Lord has established his throne in the heavens,
and his kingdom rules over all.*

Introduction

Welcome to a church in the World. Where we strive to coach everyone, no matter their current worldview, on what God says in His Word and not on what we would like Him to say.

There is an inspirational American movie called “Rudy.” It is about a young boy who has wanted to play American college football for the most renowned college football program in the world, the University of Notre Dame, for his entire life.

However, there is a challenge. Rudy is slow. Rudy is small. Rudy has dyslexia. Notre Dame recruits only the fastest, biggest, and strongest athletes, and they do require that their athletes come to school and go to class and not just play football. Rudy would definitely be considered the runt of the litter and someone who could never make it into Notre Dame as a student, let alone be able to play on the field for the “Fighting Irish” as they are known.

So, spoiler alert: Rudy, through all of the challenges and tribulations he has to go through—and I recommend that you watch the movie—ends up playing on the field for Notre Dame and records a sack in the last game of the season. Not only that, but he goes on to become a motivational speaker, where he has made hundreds of thousands of dollars per year.

In our following of Jesus this week, Jesus gives us a parable that tells a similar story, but this time about the kingdom of God. He gives us a picture showing that “The Mite is Mighty.”

Let us Pray ...

Body

Matthew 13:31 – 32

³¹ 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. ³² 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.”

The word ‘mite’ is interesting. In English it has various meanings:

1. a small coin or sum of money
2.
 - a. a very little : bit
 - b. a very small object or creature

Mustard Seed Knowledge

The mustard seed is only 2mm in diameter, so it definitely fits the category of being very small. The mustard is scientifically known as *Salvadora Perisica*. There are about 40 different varieties, and they are some of the fastest-growing plants. The plants typically cover the ground within four to five weeks of planting them. By this time, the roots are usually already firmly grounded into the soil. Yellow mustard varieties can reach full maturity in as few as 80 days. Other varieties, such as the brown and Oriental mustards, normally mature within 90 to 95 days.

Fast Growth

Remember, Jesus is using this parable to talk about the Kingdom of God and we can see this fast growth exhibited in the Book of Acts:

Acts 2:37 – 41

³⁷ Now when they heard this they were cut to the heart, and said to Peter and the rest of the apostles, “Brothers, what shall we do?” ³⁸ And Peter said to them, “Repent and be baptized every one of you in the name of Jesus Christ for the forgiveness of your sins, and you will receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. ³⁹ For the promise is for you and for your children and for all who are far off, everyone whom the Lord our God calls to himself.” ⁴⁰ And with many other words he bore witness and continued to exhort them, saying, “Save yourselves from this crooked generation.” ⁴¹ So those who received his word were baptized, and there were added that day about three thousand souls.

Toughness

Another characteristic of the mustard is that it thrives in hot/arid climates. Take a look at this tree:



A mustard must be tough. Able to endure a harsh environment. This is similar to what we as Christians have to do when following Jesus. We are going to have to deal with a harsh environment oftentimes wherever we go if we are truly going to stand on the Gospel and stand for Jesus. We see this in Scripture:

Romans 5:3-5

“Not only that, but we rejoice in our sufferings, knowing that suffering produces endurance, and endurance produces character, and character produces hope, and hope does not put us to shame, because God’s love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit who has been given to us.”

1 Peter 2:19-23

“For this is a gracious thing, when, mindful of God, one endures sorrows while suffering unjustly. For what credit is it if, when you sin and are beaten for it, you endure? But if when you do good and suffer for it you endure, this is a gracious thing in the sight of God. For to this you have been called, because Christ also suffered for you, leaving you an example, so that you might follow in his steps. He committed no sin, neither was deceit found in his mouth. When he was reviled, he did not revile in return; when he suffered, he did not threaten, but continued entrusting himself to him who judges justly.”

Matthew 5:10-12

“Blessed are those who are persecuted for righteousness’ sake, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven. Blessed are you when others revile you and persecute you and utter all kinds of evil against you falsely on my account. Rejoice and be glad, for your reward is great in heaven, for so they persecuted the prophets who were before you.”

The Greatest

The mustard can range from a small shrub to a tree that can be 30 feet high and about as wide. This is amazing for such a tiny seed.

I have to quickly address an issue to help you be prepared for the skeptics/critics who you will meet. They are very excited about the verse where Jesus says the mustard seed is the smallest of seeds. They go “Aha! You see, you cannot believe the Bible or the supposed all-knowing Jesus, because he doesn’t even know that there are other seeds that are smaller than the mustard seed.” So they would point out that for example the seed of an orchid is smaller than a mustard seed. However, The **mustard seed** was the **smallest of all agricultural seeds** in Palestine at that time.

Daniel 2:44

And in the days of those kings the God of heaven will set up a kingdom that shall never be destroyed, nor shall the kingdom be left to another people. It shall break in pieces all these kingdoms and bring them to an end, and it shall stand forever,

Revelation 11:15

Then the seventh angel blew his trumpet, and there were loud voices in heaven, saying, “The kingdom of the world has become the kingdom of our Lord and of his Christ, and he shall reign forever and ever.”

The Overthrow of Rome

The point Jesus is trying to get across to His followers that though the kingdom of God will be starting small, what seems basically insignificant, will end up being mighty and the most significant of all kingdoms. He demonstrates this by saying that the mustard will become the largest of all garden plants and become a tree.

Now the challenge for Israel was unprepared for a little “mustard seed” beginning to the kingdom of God, so this image shocked the listeners. The Jews expected a violent overthrow of the Romans. In the Hebrew Scriptures there are over 300 of a future Messiah and some of these prophecies can easily be taken down a path where the Messiah would be a warrior king:

Micah 5:1 – 6

*¹ Marshal your troops now, city of troops,
for a siege is laid against us.*

*They will strike Israel’s ruler
on the cheek with a rod.*

*² “But you, Bethlehem Ephrathah,
though you are small among the clan of Judah,
out of you will come for me
one who will be ruler over Israel,*

*whose origins are from of old,
from ancient times.”*

*³Therefore Israel will be abandoned
until the time when she who is in labor bears a son,
and the rest of his brothers return
to join the Israelites.*

*⁴He will stand and shepherd his flock
in the strength of the Lord,
in the majesty of the name of the Lord his God.
And they will live securely, for then his greatness
will reach to the ends of the earth.*

*⁵And he will be our peace
when the Assyrians invade our land
and march through our fortresses.
We will raise against them seven shepherds,
even eight commanders,*

*⁶who will rule the land of Assyria with the sword,
the land of Nimrod with drawn sword.
He will deliver us from the Assyrians
when they invade our land
and march across our borders.*

Isaiah 11:1 – 4

*¹There shall come forth a shoot from the stump of Jesse,
and a branch from his roots shall bear fruit.*

*²And the Spirit of the Lord shall rest upon him,
the Spirit of wisdom and understanding,
the Spirit of counsel and might,
the Spirit of knowledge and the fear of the Lord.*

*³And his delight shall be in the fear of the Lord.
He shall not judge by what his eyes see,
or decide disputes by what his ears hear,*

*⁴but with righteousness he shall judge the poor,
and decide with equity for the meek of the earth;
and he shall strike the earth with the rod of his mouth,
and with the breath of his lips he shall kill the wicked.*

Do you see this? The Messiah would be descended from the most famous warrior king of Israel's history, one who with a single stone that slayed Goliath. **Be Led ...**

Conclusion

As we mentioned last week “Looks can be Deceiving.” What something looks like in the beginning is not necessarily an indicator of what is going to happen in the future. Because we

must remember that this is the future:

Daniel 7:27

And the kingdom and the dominion and the greatness of the kingdoms under the whole heaven shall be given to the people of the saints of the Most High; his kingdom shall be an everlasting kingdom, and all dominions shall serve and obey him.'

No matter what your personal situation looks like at the moment or what we see out in the world we always need to remember that the Mite is not just Mighty, but the Mite of the Lord is Mightiest!