

## THE PARABLE OF THE MUSTARD SEED

SERIES: PARABLES | WEEK 3 | 6.20.2021

Morning, church. You guys are awake, you're the 11 o'clock service, you gotta be awake, you got plenty of time to sleep.

Hey, real quick just want to say happy Father's Day to everyone. We're going to be talking about dads a lot this morning, but I want to say real quick, guys, [A FEW APPLAUD] yeah, so men, for you to prioritize coming to church on Sunday morning as a father – well done. Like, awesome, great job. We're proud

of you. So I wanted to say thank you for all the fathers out there, all the men who took fatherly roles in the lives of people that desperately needed it. And we also want to thank our heavenly Father, He's a father to the fatherless. And so every day is Father's day in eyes of those who are saved because we're under His grace and love, and so we're just so grateful to worship together on this day, what an important day it is, Father's Day. Fathers, man, huge.

If you're new here, we just want to welcome you. If you've been checking out our church for a couple weeks but now you want to get connected, a couple options. We have a connect class, we'd love for you to join us with, it's once a month, you get to meet the pastors, learn about the church. There's a seat-back card called Next Step right in front of you, use your camera, scan that with your camera; you'll be able to see all the next steps digitally, sign up for our newsletter, get involved, see our communities. If you want a person, after church there's a Blue Wall location out here [POINTS TO HIS LEFT], talk to a person. If you're not ready yet, that's okay, just come and sneak out. Maybe go on the balcony and then sneak out of the church. I know you guys, I see you, but we love you, we're glad you're here anyway. But, um, we just want to also say to everyone online—what we're actually finding is that people watch online first, it's kind of a front door to the church—and so we just want to say on behalf of everyone here we love you, we want you to come, we want to meet you, but thanks for joining us online as well.

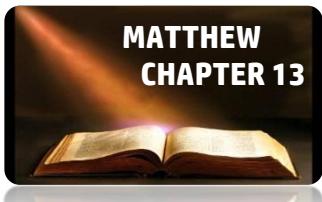
A couple announcements. We have a worship night coming up this week we'd love for you to be a part of. Come with your families, your kids, we love children, we love seeing them worship alongside of you. Bring your family this Wednesday night, we're gonna have a worship night, it's gonna be awesome, powerful time of worship. We need it. I don't know about you but sometimes we get too busy, we need to stop, give God the glory way beyond just Sunday morning. So check that out.

Men – we have a men's weekend coming up in September but we're actually having registration now because we know you're busy, so you're gonna see a video coming throughout the lobbies of the men's weekend. It's an awesome weekend. You can act like a kid, act like a teenager, you know, maybe break your leg because you did something that you're too old for and then come back, but your life's gonna be changed by Jesus. It's gonna be awesome. You're gonna have great community with other guys, a time to just rest and be with the Lord. And so make sure you sign up for that, prioritize it. Women – great Father's Day gift – just gonna throw that little... drop that out there.

Also, we just want to kind of take a moment and say thank you for your gifts. We're gonna be talking about the Kingdom of God this morning in our PARABLE series and we know that the Kingdom of God is advanced through faithful giving. And so thank you for everyone who gives faithfully to our church to help us fight the darkness in our community, around the world, with the hope we have in Jesus and so that's what we're about. We have no mortgage in this place, it's all about Kingdom here, and so we're glad to be able to fight that battle and give all the resources to that. So thank you for giving faithfully. We love you. We are so thankful that you do that.

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Turn to Matthew Chapter 13. We're in a series called PARABLES where we're talking about small stories, big truth. Anytime Jesus, the King of kings, God in the flesh, any time He tells a story you pay attention. And anytime He tells a story sometimes it seems like a small story. Like, if any of you guys do devotions, which I hope you all do, this story we're about to talk to would take maybe 10 seconds to read and you may just fly by it, but it is loaded, it is jam-packed with truth. Because here's what I learn with God's Word is you see something and you think, *Oh, that's really nice*, but when you break it up it's like an iceberg. When you break it open and you see all the stuff you're like, *Okay, that makes sense that the King of the universe would use that story*. This is what it's going to be like today just like last week, it's going to blow you away what this mustard seed story is really about and why God chose a mustard seed. It's an awesome thing, so turn to Matthew Chapter 13.

But before then I want to surprise my dad, I think my dad's in the audience here. I want to talk about my father on Father's Day. I want to just say a couple things. One is my dad did not give me the hands [ONE WHO TALKS WITH THEIR HANDS ALWAYS GESTURING], a lot of you know I'm very hands when I talk. Okay? That's my Brooklyn mom. Okay? That's my Jersey, that's where I get that. My dad is more of a quiet man, but he's a good man and he's a faithful man. I remember growing up always being there, always being part of our family, always being faithful to our family. I'm so deeply appreciative of my dad.

But he didn't know this, but I remember when I grew up, small church, and so the way small churches would work is you'd have Sunday school in the morning for kids and then you would go to church with your parents and you would sit there, and oftentimes you'd get in trouble because you couldn't sit still. Right? That's when the spankings came after church a lot of times, but it's because you couldn't stay still. Right? And you would always be like, *Oh, this is so boring*, and then you'd, like, sleep and so you would look for things to do. And I just remember being young and just kind of laying on the chairs with my parents with church.

But here's something that I remember as a young boy, I don't think he knows this, but my dad would always have a notebook and he would open the notebook and he'd have his Bible and He would always be writing everything the pastor said in this notebook. He would highlight it, underline it, and he would have his Bible open and notebook it. And I remember as a young boy saying, "There's something that this pastor is saying that my dad really wants to know." And I remember he didn't do that with, like, movies or sporting events, he did that with church. And again, I didn't know... I didn't have a relationship with Jesus, a personal living relationship, but there was a seed planted of *why is my dad writing down all these things?*



And I remember when I got older and God took me and transformed me, I met the living Jesus and His promised Spirit, and He rocked my world. And so I had this foundation of truth but I didn't know God. When I met Him, when I experienced His truth and I understood what the Gospel meant for me, I remember all of a sudden – guess what I did – I had a notebook and I remember writing down everything that the pastor said, everything that my mentors said, I would write down and I would write down questions when I was studying the Bible. And I understood why he was doing that, but at the time all that he was doing was just writing in a notebook. And he didn't know that there was a seed there, a small act that would have a profound impact on me, because he planted a seed. Okay? There's something there. And so what we're going to see this morning in this story—and I want you to hear this—is something that seems small and insignificant God can use for amazing things. I promise you this. All throughout Scripture we're going to see this.

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And in this example Jesus is going to intentionally find one of the smallest seeds and say this is what the Kingdom of God looks like, so take a look at this when we read together how God is going to explain something spiritual using something physical that doesn't seem like much. Matthew 13, pick it up in verse 31:

**<sup>31</sup> He told them another parable: "The Kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. <sup>32</sup> Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."**

— MATTHEW 13:31-32 (NIV)

And so this is the important thing that Jesus is gonna say. That's it, by the way, that's the parable. Now, all the Gospels have this parable and so there's some expanding I'm going to use in the Gospel of Mark and other places, but in the gist of it the Kingdom of God – what is that? It deals with the realm of salvation. How do we get saved as people? What do we do when we are saved, when we're walking with Jesus? What's going to happen in the end? What is the Kingdom of God going to be like? Is it going to come back? What's going to be the end? Or how's this Kingdom of God going to turn out? All of that is what Jesus is talking about. He's trying to explain the Kingdom of God to the disciples, and He's trying to talk about what the Kingdom of God is like.

I mean, imagine this, He's looking around and He's trying to find something that represents the Kingdom, and so He finds a mustard seed that's very small. I'm going to actually show you a picture, not right now, I'm going to show you a picture later of a mustard seed and it's very, very small. As you say, "This is what the Kingdom of God is like." So here's what we learned from this parable, I'm going to break it down.

One is this, the Kingdom of God is inauspicious. It's not something at that time that a lot of people thought was going to be what it was. Like imagine, Jesus and the disciples, think about what happened there that went through the whole world only a few years later. I mean, at that time God is going to say, "Okay, how should I illustrate this? I'm going to illustrate with a mustard seed."

And now think about this: If He would've asked Peter, the disciple Peter, "Peter, give me an example on earth of what you think the Kingdom of God is like." You know what Peter would have said? Peter would have mostly been like, well, the Kingdom of God is like a mighty rushing river. Right? Or, this all-powerful statue of a Kingdom on a hill that just is conquering. The Kingdom of God is like, um, like a massive oak tree, that's what the Kingdom of God is like. Because to Peter, Jesus was about ready to take over Rome, and He's about ready to be a military victory conqueror. And so for Peter, He's like, man, the Kingdom of God is like fierce and large and powerful. And then Jesus goes no, this [GESTURES HOLDING UP A TINY MUSTARD SEED] is kind of what the Kingdom of God is like.

I mean, just be there, be there in that moment when you read Scripture, read into the moment, I mean, "What?! You're telling me that this is the Kingdom of God?" So Jesus is saying yeah, the Kingdom of God is something that people are going to walk by and not even know it's there. It's going to be something that doesn't look like much and it's going to be kind of... seems insignificant, but this is kind of what the Kingdom of God is going to start like, but then this Kingdom of God is going to grow and it's going to keep on growing. It's gonna become something powerful. And He's looking at these men and He knows that they are going to be the ones who help grow this Kingdom.

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MUSTARD SEED

This is what a mustard seed looks like. That's a mustard seed. Okay? And He and He says this is the Kingdom of God. I mean, this is where I have to stop and say, "Okay. What is He talking about?" Well, if you look at Scripture and you study Scripture, which I hope you do, God is in this habit of taking something small and making it large, making it way more than it would be by itself. I mean, look at Scripture. I'll just give you some examples.

- What does God do with a small boy's lunch? He feeds 5,000 people. More than that, women and children included, 15,000 – 20,000 people.
- What does He do with a small family? He has them build an ark to save people from destruction and devastation.
- What does He do with a little boy and his slingshot? He defeats a giant with a little boy and his slingshot and faith.
- Think about what He does with a little boy in the stable. What does He do with a little boy born in a stable? He saves the world.

Our God is in the business of taking something small that seems insignificant and making it amazingly powerful and impactful. This is true and it's written in the DNA of everything in Scripture. But often what happens is for those who do not know Jesus, the Kingdom of God doesn't seem relevant, it doesn't seem important, and it doesn't really seem necessary—until you meet Jesus and then it becomes the most important thing.

When I was growing up we didn't go to Disney World, we went to a hunting cabin up towards Lock Haven, that's what we did, and I want to give you a little bit of a background of this hunting cabin. This hunting cabin had no running water. Pray for my mother. Right? I had a bunch of siblings and foster children, we would go up there and we would love it because it was the woods and we'd run. But here's what we had to do. I don't know if my parents even know the story, my poor parents are [VOICE TRAILS/INAUDIBLE], but we would have to take these buckets and walk down this really narrow path in

**ledge...** order to get water at the end of this water, again, I'm probably dating myself. We walked down and it was this ledge with this little cliff that you walked down, and the **little cliff...** ledge; and the ledge would fall and the cliff would fall right into, like, a little stream below. And there was trees, and I mean, you didn't want to fall, let's just say that. And I remember I would have to walk down this path – by the **stream below...** way, it had an outhouse. Okay?

And so imagine during the day, this isn't the story but I just want you to identify with me, imagine during the day you see a bear, like, walking around. And then you're 10 years old and you need to go to bathroom in the middle of the night and you're like, "I'm not leaving this house to go to the outhouse because there's a bear out there." This was our world. Okay? So I'm walking down this path and I'm taking these buckets with me, and I go down this path and I fill these buckets up, but when we're walking on this path there'd be these trees kind of down in the cliff and we would always do stuff. We would throw trees, we'd throw rocks at them, and we'd shoot things at them, and we would just kind of like throw things off the edge. It was just like a game for us.

And so this tree, this little tiny tree was just beat up and had all these scratches on it, but I remember after I had to filled up, it must have been like a rainstorm or something the night before, but I'm walking up this narrow walkway and I fall. I fall off and the buckets go and I'm falling down this cliff and this tree catches me. Cool, like this [THROWS HIS HEAD & BODY BACK] and it's like, it catches me in the back

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and I just remember being like oh, my word. I was about to die. Now I probably would have just, like, hurt myself really bad, but I thought I was going to die at the time. So I turned and started hugging the tree being like, "Oh, you're so good, tree, you're so good. I'm so grateful for you." [LAUGHTER] And I kind of stood up and I pushed my way up and I was like was climbing up and I got to the top. And I remember from that day on every time I walked by that tree I was like, "That's my boy. [LAUGHTER] That was my boy I loved." Because here's the truth is that I didn't know the value of the tree until it became valuable.

You see, God's Kingdom is often like that, it is, because oftentimes for us we chase the world and we don't know what God did for us. But when we meet Jesus and we fall in love with Him, He transforms our life, the Kingdom of God becomes our priority, becomes our focus, becomes the most important thing in our lives. And so what starts as something that's insignificant becomes all-inclusive. I don't know about you but this is what my goal is in my life: I want to teach my children and I want to glorify God and build His Kingdom. This is my goal. All the other stuff is either complimentary or going to get pushed aside because it doesn't matter, because that's eternal, all the other stuff isn't. So as a father that's my goal is for my children to love Jesus more than anything else in the world, and to think about His Kingdom over theirs.

And so God's Word is inauspicious and His Kingdom is inauspicious until you need it. That's how the Kingdom of God works. And so that's why He's saying this is like the Kingdom of God, but then it grows. This is what we know, the Kingdom of God is growing, the smallest seed becomes the biggest plant, and it also becomes a shelter for people. This is what He says. He says if you think about it, it's amazing because this tiny mustard seed is going to become this massive tree, and so that's why it is such an awesome example. Church, look at what the mustard seed becomes. This is a mustard seed tree.



MUSTARD TREE

Are you kidding me? I mean just take a moment and think about this—this is what it becomes and Jesus knows that and He says this is like the Kingdom of God, but it's going to grow, it's going to grow, and it's going to grow to a point where it's going to provide shelter and shade.

But you know what also, I've been doing some research. Do you know what the mustard seed does? It's an amazing thing. You know what this tree does? It provides shelter, you know that, so trees, so birds come under it from the weather, from the sun, it provides shelter. But you know what it also does? It provides food. You take mustard seed, you crush it up, it adds flavor to food. You know what also the mustard seed does? You take a mustard seed, crush it up, and it also helps – it's a medicine for snake bites and spider bites. It also was used to treat colds at that time. So He's using this and He says it's going to grow and then it's going to become this powerful, tangible thing that's going to help everything around it. So not only is it our inheritance but it's going to then grow to a point where everything around is going to have use for it. And that's the Kingdom of God.

So think about it, the 12 disciples, did Jesus lie? No. The Scripture is amazing truth because at that time, again, they didn't know what was going to happen. But what's going to happen? We know. The 12 disciples He's talking to become what? Hundreds. Become what? Thousands. That then take over Rome when Rome is persecuting them and killing them. It sweeps through the country, sweeps through the nations, billions are transformed by the power of the Spirit of God, and we worship together in Chester County because of it. So Jesus says watch what I do with this seed – and He's still doing it, church. The Kingdom of God will not stop growing despite if you and I want to be a part of it or not. No nation, no government, no policy will stop the Kingdom of God. You know what's going to happen?

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The Kingdom of God is going to come back and unite with the world—heaven and earth united—and it's going to be forever. [APPLAUSE] Forever. That's the promise. That's the promise. Your kingdom will not. Your Kingdom may look to the world like this big, huge oak tree, but it's going away. But the seed is growing and it's not going to stop, it's going to get bigger.

But let's look practically. David, was the youngest son, was given a job no one wanted but what did God do? He made him a king. Gideon, smallest family, no one had...smallest tribe in Israel. What happened? He became a great military leader. Same with you. You are a person chasing after the world, trying to be remembered by the world, and you realize that most of the world – fathers, most of the world is not going to even know you existed. And so if you look at the world and you say, "Is there value? There isn't a lot of value for you, you're not really valuable when you think about the world because the world's chasing after their own self-interest. And so yes, before you know Jesus you're not really that valuable because you're trying to chase after the same thing everyone else is, which is temporary joys, temporary pleasures.

But here's the truth, God takes you from a person that's worshipping yourself, who does not care, and He sees you and He offers you grace, He offers you forgiveness, and then you step out of this meaningless temporary vapor and you get to a Kingdom of God world where everything you do, like Solomon, everything you do now is for the Kingdom of God which is eternal. So you move from something that isn't valuable to something that's eternally valuable—that's what God does in your life. He takes you and He makes you way more than you think you are. That's why I said last week we need people to know that, you know how valuable you are, you know what God has planned for you, you know that God wants to use every action in your life to build something that you may not even see until you die, but it's gonna be wondrous and glorious through your faithfulness, through the small acts of obedience. He's gonna make your life so valuable because now you're in His promise, His Kingdom, His purpose, rather than your own. That's the Gospel.

But let's think about it practically, think about the Kingdom of God. As He talked about this, this tree is very practically helping the birds and the people but He says the Kingdom of God is like that, so let's think about it as the church. And again, this is why I'm not a big fan of bashing the church, I'm talking the big "c" church. I know there's institutional man-made religiosity that's filled with hypocrisy and

self-interest and standards that are "small cones" as Pastor Lee likes to say, I'm not talking about that church. That's a man-made thing. I'm talking about *the church*—people who are following Jesus, who say, "It's about You, Lord. You have set me free. I'm walking in victory"—*that church*.

You know what it has done? I mean, look at the history. The world wants to say religion, it has to be in its corner. Do you know what the Gospel of Jesus Christ has done for the world? I'll just list a few: Everywhere the church has gone it has brought hospitals, it has brought schools, it has brought truth, morality, ethics, decency, compassion, the Gospel, the hope of

salvation, everywhere it's gone. I'll keep going. Everywhere the Gospel has gone it's abolished cannibalism, it has abolished child sacrifice, polygamy, demonism, slavery, racism, a thousand other such evils. Men and women of God who are redeemed say no more; no more allowing the enemy to dictate our thoughts to how we treat people. Come under the tree of the Kingdom of God and you will see that there is a good God who loves you and people are valuable. And so the Kingdom of God has spread around the world and has transformed it.



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I mean, if you don't think that's true, imagine just for a second that everyone who loved the Lord would disappear, think about where this world would be, think about what would have to close. And it's not those people that get the glory, it's the Kingdom of God, it's the grace of God, it's the Spirit of God in them that compelled them to do that. And Jesus knew that when He held up that seed; He's said watch what I'll do with this. Everywhere the Gospel has gone... halfway houses, recovery programs, shelters, housing, disaster relief. Am I lying? And it's not a workspace thing but that was birthed from what Jesus did for us, because we know that there is this perfected world that God knows should exist; a good world that sin has got us away from and we're fighting to get back to that because we know what goodness is, we know what hope is, and so we're trying to get there with our actions.

This is why the Kingdom of God spread and it still spreads. Red, yellow, black, white, rich, poor, educated, uneducated, deaf, dumb, blind, crippled, good and bad, all types of birds have shade underneath the Kingdom of God. Is that not true? That is why our inheritance says I'm a bird, you're a bird, let me tell you where there's shade and shelter. That's the Gospel. So in our world if we say you can't come or you don't look right or act like – we are not representing the Kingdom of God. So anything that is not of God we push away, it doesn't exist. Hopefully, it doesn't exist in this place; if it does, you will be found out. The Kingdom of God is about telling people where the shelter and shade which is in Jesus, not in you. You're just inviting people in. That is why the Kingdom of God has transformed the world.

So guys, let me just say this practically. Okay? Here's your goal. If you think about God using small acts in mighty ways, this is a practical truth that we live out in our lives every day. Fathers, let me just kind of challenge you with a couple things. God does not want you to be this amazing, grand, everyone knows you in the world, a Billy Graham-type person, or you're a failure—that's not the Gospel. Here's what God calls you to do as godly men: Every day, every day you're faithful with the little things. Every day you're faithful with waking up saying, "God, I cannot be the father that I need to be without You. I cannot be the husband I need to be without You." God wants you to quickly forgive, quickly offer forgiveness, confess your need for forgiveness. Every day be faithful to what He calls you to do, be in your Word, be practically living out the things of God, be dependent on the Spirit every day of your life. And in that God's gonna grow something amazing. He's gonna create a legacy that is going to blow you away. I promise you.

Listen, I've been talking to young people over and over again. Young boys who have this myth that if they grow up and they just have all these girlfriends and they sleep around that somehow their life's gonna be full. And I always say to them, "Listen, you are on a path here. When you make these decisions you are being planted in this field, and the path that you're on is going to make you be 80 years old or 60 years old alone in a bar and every broken relationship in your life, no one's going to want to be a part of you, you're gonna be alone and miserable because you settled for temporary pleasures rather than trusting in God. That's where you're heading. Do you know that? Because that's not a good place. You're not going to have fruit there, you may have temporary pleasures but you're going to be dry and empty."

Here is – guys, guys, guys, for those that are being tempted right now to run after the temporary pleasures of the flesh and you're questioning whether just being a good family man is worth your life. Listen, here's the goal: You want to be 80 years old at Thanksgiving sitting at the table looking around at your family, seeing the faithfulness of God in your life. Seeing that your parents and your children and their children love God because they saw you loved God, and they saw the fruits of that in your life. And you're gonna look around you and say, "God, I cannot believe your faithfulness." That's what you're working for. Every day you do the simple things, because in the simple things that's what God's

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gonna produce in your life, a godly legacy that may not be public but, man, you're gonna be blown away by His faithfulness. That's what you want. That's what you want. Don't chase after the flash; faithfully every day do the things that God calls you to do. And listen, sometimes you're not going to see those things; if you plant a seed, you're not going to see it grow, but eventually God's going to show you the fruit of your faithfulness and His faithfulness to you. The little things God will use to do the big things. This is true, so keep doing those little things. Keep showing your children what it looks like to follow after Jesus. This is the key. This is the key.

And so last week I talked about this idea of, okay, what do we do to help with this community that's broken and hurting? And I said, church, we need to move, we need to care about this. But some of us think, *Okay, I don't have time to do these grand gestures. I don't have the financial resources. I'm not charismatic enough.* But you know what I'm actually calling us to do is the same thing God calls us to do is just the little things. Like teachers, a lot of you talked to me afterwards about—last week we talked about how we just need to love on this community, they don't know who they are, they don't know what Jesus did for them, and we are the ones who do, so we need to love, we need to move towards them—and some of the teachers are, like, "Listen, I go to these schools and I'm not allowed to share the Gospel. The very thing I know they need I'm not allowed to share, what do I do?"



And you know what they need to do is the little things. Like next year when school starts, teachers, before you walk into that building and you're in your car say a prayer and say, "God, use me in the ways that I can't words but actions, use me, do things that only You can do because I'm limited but You're not." And then when you leave school, before you start your car you pray, "God, do something that I couldn't do that day but You can." Little things, but are big things.

Men and women. Men, before you pull out of your house, before you pull in your house, as Daniel was sharing a couple months ago, so powerful, before you walk in your house you ask the Lord to make you the man that He wants you to be, that you would walk into your house and serve your wife, serve your children, that He would strengthen you before you walk in that door – little things. Men and women, when you wake up in your morning to start your day, put your phone far away – little thing – put your Bible near. And when your Bible's near, when you wake up spend a few minutes with the Lord – little thing. Watch what happens. It's in the little things that God will do big things in our lives.

It's the same with the Kingdom of God. God is saying watch Me, watch Me. So fathers, it's when you're on your knees and your children walk into your room and they see you on your knees crying out to the Lord—that's not weakness, that's strength. It's when you go to your wife after a fight and you're the first to apologize even if she was more wrong—that's not weakness, that's strength. It's humbling yourself to say, "I have an addiction and I need help because I want to love my children and I don't want them to see hypocrisy in my life"—that's not weakness, that's strength. For you to say, "I don't know the answer, but as a family let's study God's Word and let's grow together. I'm not going to have all the answers but let's learn together"—that's not weakness, that's strength.

Guys, opening up your notebook, writing down notes when the pastor is talking can do wonders. And here's what I know, that we will get to Heaven and God will show us what He did with the little things and we will say, "No way did You do that. You're telling me that that little prayer I had for that person, You did that?" "You're telling me that the small act of kindness, You produced that!?" You'll be blown away because here's the truth, most of what God is going to do through our acts of faithfulness we will never see until eternity, but don't you, aren't you excited to get to see that? Man, if we saw what He's

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done every day we would say, "God, we want more, because if You can do that from a little, how much more can You do if I just increase my faith?" That's what I know is going to happen and that's why this is so powerful. God's like, "This is like the Kingdom, but watch what I do."

And so, church, I just want to challenge you, men, I want to challenge you. Good job coming here today. It seems small, but it's not. As a father you could have had a lot of choices. I want this day to be about me, but you said no, I want my family to know that being in the presence of God, being in fellowship with believers is more important. That's a seed, but that's huge. Keep doing the small things. And for those who the ideal is lacking, you haven't been the man, haven't been the father, haven't been the grandfather that's God's calling you to be—repentance, confession, brokenness is not weakness, because you know what you teach your family? That in failure run to Jesus. That's a good message. And so if you need to confess, *I have not been that person*, it's okay, come under grace. Grace abounds in the Gospel.

I've seen God take the life of a man who lived for himself for 50 years, and gives their life to Jesus for the last 10 years of their life because they got cancer, I've seen that 10 years transform his entire family where they're like, "My dad was this man and then he was this man, and Jesus was the one that changed him. I need to know more about this Jesus." So seeing the transformation is a healthy thing, so confess that you were broken and you need Jesus, men. But listen, for those men that are faithfully, again, imperfectly but faithfully trying to be the man that God has you to be, keep going. God's gonna use those small things. Okay? We love you. We thank you. We're gonna have some time of worship. Let me pray us out.

Lord,



We thank You, Lord, that in the mustard seed your Kingdom grew. And Father, we think right now that we are part of your Kingdom and we know that the Kingdom is coming, the Kingdom is eternal. We're so blessed to be a part of it, to be used to build your Kingdom is such a gift. So Lord, help us, help the men in this room to feel affirmed, but also convicted that, Lord, we are called to be faithful to the little things because You are responsible for all the other things. And so, Lord, we praise You. We give You glory and honor. Lord, we are gonna exalt in your name and worship because You deserve to be worshipped, because You are the Father to the fatherless. You are a hope in times of need and, Lord, we are all under your shade, your grace, your mercy. In Jesus' name we pray. Amen.

**WATCH OR LISTEN**



### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:

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