

Sermon Discussion – 19 May 2024

Read Luke 13:10-21

Getting Started *Sharing from personal experience*

What is something that you (either directly or indirectly) have had a part in growing? It might be a flower or plant? Maybe an organisation or group?

What are some ways that our church can lean into a ministry that is small, and humble, and ordinary, and unremarkable in the hopes that God will do something extraordinary through it?

Observation *Discovering the context*

A little background on a mustard plant. A pod of seeds on a mustard plant holds thousands of seeds so one plant can give rise to hundreds more plants. In many ways a mustard plant is like a weed: it sprouts quickly but can also lay dormant for many years. Like most weeds, it cannot be easily killed. It's been shown a fire can destroy a field, but it won't destroy a mustard plant. The mustard seed is not the smallest seed in the world, but it is very small compared to the other seeds, and in those days, may have been the smallest known by most people.

- Knowing this about a mustard plant, what do you think Jesus chose to use this illustration?
- Jesus also referred to a mustard seed in Matthew 17:20 and Luke 17:6. What do you think He is teaching about our individual faith in God?

Interpretation *Discovering the meaning*

1. What is the significance of the context of this passage? Why do you think that it is situated immediately after Jesus' interactions with the disabled woman and the ruler of the synagogue (Luke 13:10-17)? What can we learn from this?
2. In the parable of the mustard seed, what is the significance of starting with a small and seemingly insignificant seed that grows into a large tree? How does this illustrate the external power of the kingdom of God?
3. Jesus's illustration about the leaven implies that the Kingdom of God permeates all of society, and drastically affects everything that it touches. What are some ways in which the Kingdom of God is already affecting the world? What are some ways in which the Kingdom of God will eventually affect the world?
4. Discuss the importance of progress and transformation in the Christian life. How can we recognise and foster growth in our own lives, as well as in the lives of others?

Application *Putting knowledge into practice*

- What is God calling you to do that requires you to trust in Him?
- Pray for yourself and group members for your faith develops so that you can trust God little and big things in your life.