The Other Mustard Seed

In Christianity we have these well-known Scriptures. These are Scriptures that even if you’re not a Christian you have seen on the pillows of hobby lobby, or some cheesy picture with the verse on social media. They are famous. They are quotable, and often the most memorized.

I want to read a few of these scriptures, and see if any of these ring a bell…

“For I know the plans I have for you, declares the Lord, plans for welfare and not for evil, to give you a future and a hope.”

Jeremiah 29:11 ESV

“I can do all things through him who strengthens me.”

Philippians 4:13 ESV

“For God so loved the world, that he gave his only Son, that whoever believes in him should not perish but have eternal life.”

John 3:16 ESV

[Mat 7:7 ESV] 7 "Ask, and it will be given to you; seek, and you will ﬁnd; knock, and it will be opened to you.

And here is the problem with isolating Scriptures like this… we can take these singled out verses and get an incorrect view of truth. If we just focus on singled-out verses of the Bible, it can give us an imbalanced view of how the kingdom of God works. It can often be the cause of frustration and hurt towards God because we know what His Word says, but sometimes we only know in part what His Word says.

It is still true: God’s people often perish for a lack of knowledge.

Yes, God has great plans for you, but just by us existing doesn’t guarantee us God’s plans for us. There must be obedience on our part; there has to be eﬀort on our part. There has to be a desire in us to live for God for His plans to be fulﬁlled for us.

Yes, you can do all things through Christ who strengthens you, but you must also be in Christ, and Christ in you. You can’t live any way you want, talk any way you want, act any way you want, and expect God’s strength to help you do all things… you can’t live a secret life of sin at school, and a Christian life at church, and expect His power to give you strength in all areas. The Word of God is a complete package. It’s all connected.

The promises of God are a complete teaching. They are one composed story; you can’t read one chapter and discover the full and total will of God for your life.

God could have given us just one book of the Bible if he wanted to. He could have given us one Scripture if He wanted to. But He chose to give us the whole Word of God: 66 books, 1,189 chapters, 31,102 verses, and 783,137 words.

And we have to study to show ourselves approved; you have to study the Word of God…

I thank God that we are able to have nights where we study for our education from school. I am glad for it; I really am. I was proud to see all of you last night, but you should also know what it’s like to study the Word of God.

Trigonometry, Algebra, Chemistry, division, multiplication won’t get us to Heaven, and they won’t exist in Heaven. But the Word of God is forever sealed in Heaven. The Bible says that the grass withers and the ﬂower fades, meaning life is common and what we know today is gone tomorrow, but the Word of God will always be.

It is worth your time and eﬀort to study the Word of God…

I want to look at one more common or famous passage of Scripture, a teaching many Christians know and look to in times of trouble.

Matthew 17:20 ESV “He said to them, “Because of your little faith. For truly, I say to you, if you have **faith like a grain of mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move, and nothing will be impossible for you**.””

This is an awesome teaching we see from Jesus. It is a teaching on faith. It teaches us that God can take the little that we give Him and through

Him our small faith can move mountains. Through faith we are able to speak words that the creator could speak, move from here to there, mountain move from that place to that place, and faith the size of a mustard seed will move mountains.

Does anybody else besides me like that? That the mustard seed is the smallest of all seeds, it’s the least of all seeds, and I can be in a room full of people with big faith, and big walks with God, and big prayer lives, but if I just have a little, when I put it in God’s hands, it can be much.

But what about when you had big faith for a need that you had and the mountain didn’t move? What about when you just knew God was going to do something amazing and spectacular.

You could see the miracle in your mind. You could hear the rejoicing of your family and friends as you shared the story. You didn’t just have mustard seed faith; you had enormous faith. You had faith that could move your mountains, and your friends’ mountains at the same time, but you woke up the next morning after praying, and your mountain was still there.

Your struggle was still there. Your valley was still all around you. The ﬁre was still hot. The depression was still real. The anxiety was still overpowering, and you had the faith the size of a mustard seed….

Tonight, I’m going to preach for just a minute on “the Other Mustard Seed.”

It’s important to know the full Word of God because we know the one teaching of the Mustard seed that would move mountains, but Jesus teaches another parable about mustard seed faith.

Is anybody interested to hear it tonight?

[Mat 13:31-32 ESV] 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.

Jesus taught that there is another kind of mustard seed… this mustard seed isn’t one that can move mountains. This mustard seed isn’t one that can do the seemingly big and important things, but this mustard seed is planted in the ground. It’s hidden underneath the earth. It gets put in a dark cold damp place where there doesn’t seem to be any light. And things are uncomfortable, and things don’t make sense, and all the other seeds around you have already become trees they have already become plants. And here you are planted in the ground. What’s going on?

Sometimes in our lives God will take our mustard seed of faith and plant it all by itself, alone, and He will let that seed die.

The promise that we had faith for, the miracle that we just knew we were going to see, He seemingly lets it die.

And young person, when this happens, it hurts. When this is the path

the Lord decides to take us on, it can often be very confusing, and not make any sense at all.

But we have to read the rest of the Scripture…

[Mat 13:31-32 ESV] 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."

Some seeds must die because God has to plant in the ﬁeld of darkness and confusion because it causes us to have a special dependence on Him. Then He will fertilize the seed with His Spirit, and that seed that looked like it had died will grow up and serve a greater purpose.

Yes, there is the mustard seed that moves mountains, but there is also a mustard seed that dies for the greater purpose of the Kingdom.

Some seeds of faith God must allow to die so that they can properly grow into what He has for it to be.

Jesus died on the cross, but His death purchased eternal life for all of humanity, and by the way, He rose again on the third day.

Personal Testimony

Mary and Martha called for Jesus in faith… He didn’t come or answer. Their faith died… but Lazarus came forth.

* Karen had cancer and was given weeks to leave… “you shall live, and you shall not die.” Send a picture of her rejoicing in her living room…
* [Heb 11:13 ESV] 13 These all died in faith, not having received the things promised, but having seen them and greeted them from afar, and having acknowledged that they were strangers and exiles on the earth.
* “Karen had lost her faith. Your call restored her faith and allowed her to die in faith. But she is living eternally and did not die.”
* I thought I was restoring her life to live on this earth. I was expecting her to just live physically, but God used me to restore her faith in eternal life, and His love for her. And I know Karen is living with the savior right now.