

Transformed – teen devotion – October 9, 2016

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[Jesus] told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 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

Leaving a legacy

If I went to your classmates, teammates, or friends and asked them to describe you in ten words or less, what do you think they would say? What words would they use? Do you think ‘Jesus-loving’ or ‘Christian’ would be ways they’d describe you? Sadly, my mind goes back to high school, and I’m pretty sure that those two descriptions might not have made my list.

All kinds of trials and temptations come at us daily, especially in high school. Popularity, sports, drama, music, choir, good friends, fun friends (who aren’t necessarily good for you), and family—all of these present you with chances to make good or pretty terrible decisions. They all give you opportunities to add some positive or really negative words to that list of ten.

Jesus knew those challenges would be coming your way. But notice. He doesn’t expect you to be great; he teaches you to have faith in the One who is great. In the parable for this week, Jesus said he wants your faith to be the size of a mustard seed. (By the way, a mustard seed is about the size of the earbud hole on your iPhone 6 or Galaxy S7.)

And then look at the promise Jesus makes. This little seed of faith grows! As it is nourished by the Word and sinks its roots down into Jesus, it grows into something bigger, bigger than we might ever imagine. Eventually, it gets big enough to make an impact on the other plants and animals in the garden too. This mustard seed grows to become shade and refuge for all kinds of birds. The seed of faith grows because it is planted in the work of Jesus—his perfect life, death, and glorious rising from the grave on Easter. This is the work he did for you. Yes, you! You are his

forgiven seed. So bloom where you are planted.

Your faith and your life may not be that impressive. But the Savior that your faith holds is impressive. And as you hold him more and as you hold him tighter, you will grow and have a great impact on the people in your life. Not because you're great, but because he's great. And then people will know you as you really are, a "Jesus-loving, still-growing, faith-filled Christian!"

Prayer:

Dear Jesus, help me to keep growing up in my faith so that more and more people see and know me as I really am—your dear child, who is Jesus-loving, still-growing, and faith-filled. Amen.

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