Mustard Seeds

Luke 17:1-10

Introduction:

1. When we think of something powerful, we often think of something big.
2. Jesus talked about the power of little things.
3. The mustard seed was one of those little things.
   1. The mustard seed has power and potential. Matthew 13:31, 32
   2. The mustard seed principle requires faith. Matthew 17:14-21
   3. The mustard seed implies practice because it must be planted. Luke 17:1-10
4. Let’s look for a mustard seed about mustard seeds.
   1. Be open to a small idea.
   2. Plant it in your mind.
   3. Cultivate it.
   4. Practice it.
   5. Watch it grow.
5. MUSTARD SEED PRINCIPLES.
   1. It only takes a little to do a lot – mustard seeds are powerful. Hebrews 4:12; Isaiah 55:10, 11
   2. I need to grow in my faith in the Provider and in the process. 2 Corinthians 5:7; Romans 8:24; 1 Corinthians 3:6
   3. For a good harvest, there must be persistence in preparation and practice as we plant these little seeds. James 2:14-17, 26; 1 Corinthians 15:58; Galatians 6:9; Luke 16:10
   4. Some principles have to be applied over and over again.
      1. Some say, “I tried that and it didn’t do any good.”
      2. What if we used that reasoning in other areas?
      3. Picture these situations.
         1. A car has worn out prematurely – 25,000 miles. The mechanic asks, “How long has it been since you changed oil?” You reply, “About 20,000 miles. I tried it once and it didn’t seem to help any.”
         2. A man is walking down the road, away from his car. Someone asks, “What is the problem?” Upon inspection, the helper determines that the car is out of gasoline, and offers, “Would you like me to take you to get some gasoline for your new car?” You reply, “No, I’ve tried that several times and I had to do it over. It doesn’t do any good.”
         3. A frustrated new father is in distress with his new baby in dirty diapers. Someone asks, “Aren’t you going to change the baby?” He says, “No, I have already done that four or five times. The diapers keep getting soiled again. It doesn’t do any good.”
         4. A baby is taken to the emergency room. It is near death. With a quick examination, the doctor determines that the problem is malnutrition. The doctor asks the parents, “How long has it been since you fed your baby?” The parents answer, “About two weeks. We tried it several times. The baby kept getting hungry again. It doesn’t do any good. He wasn’t growing very much.”
   5. While we understand with our cars and the physical well-being of our children, often in following God’s will in other areas, we give up, surrender, quit, after one or two attempts and then blame God – accusing Him of giving us bad seed and broken promises.
6. POWERFUL MUSTARD SEEDS THAT NEED TO BE PERSISTENTLY PLANTED.
   1. Studying, learning God’s will.
      1. This is the source of mustard seed faith. Romans 10:17
      2. It takes faith to prepare. 2 Timothy 2:15
      3. Persistence is not trying it only once to see if it works. Psalm 1:1, 2
   2. Praying.
      1. Praying is powerful. Philippians 4:6, 7
      2. The seed has to be persistently planted and allowed to produce. 1 Thessalonians 5:17; Luke 18:1
   3. Teaching the gospel.
      1. What? 1 Corinthians 2:2
      2. When, to whom, how often? Mark 16:15; Acts 5:42; Acts 8:4; Ecclesiastes ll:4
   4. Restoring.
      1. It is powerful in its results for all involved. James 5:19, 20
      2. It takes faith to plant and persist. Galatians 6:1
   5. Training children.
      1. Don’t tear up the ground. Ephesians 6:4
      2. How long and often should I plant? Deuteronomy 6:6, 7
   6. Giving.
      1. An abundant crop is promised. 2 Corinthians 9:6, 7
      2. It takes persistent sowing. 1 Corinthians 16:1,2
   7. Helping those in need.
      1. This shows our love for others and God. 1 John 3:16-19
      2. We need to plant this mustard seed when we see the soil. Galatians 6:10
   8. Being grateful and expressing gratitude. Ephesians 5:20; 1 Thessalonians 5:18; Philippians 1:3
   9. Encouragement. Hebrews 10:24

Conclusion:

1. Mustard seed planting includes saying – not just thinking. Romans 10:9, 10
2. Mustard seed planting includes doing – not just talking. Matthew 7:21
3. Effective mustard seed farming means planting while the soil and moisture conditions are favorable. 2 Corinthians 6:1,2; Acts 22:16

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