

Speaking to the soul



Small sins

Here is another illustration Jesus used: “The Kingdom of Heaven is like a mustard seed planted in a field. It is the smallest of all seeds, but it becomes the largest of garden plants; it grows into a tree, and birds come and make nests in its branches.” Matthew 13:31-32

This is one of the most famous of Jesus’ parables and the point is clear. Often the kingdom of heaven expresses itself

in small and humble ways. It doesn't attract much interest or attention and is overlooked by most people. But just like a tiny mustard seed that is so small that it can easily be missed, or blown away by the wind, it can grow up into something vast. In the Middle East a mustard seed can grow into a twelve-foot tree that can provide a home for many birds. Jesus was clearly telling us not to look down on things or dismiss them just because they are small. When God is at work, miracles are just around the corner!

I have often been a part of small Christian organisations that have looked seriously unimpressive to any observer. I also think of many churches that I have known which have been attended by tiny numbers of people. Humanly speaking it would be very tempting to suggest that they should be closed down because they are so small. But, when God is at work in the power of his Spirit, the tiniest and most insignificant things can turn out to be incredibly powerful and impressive.

This should be an encouragement to us all. It is very easy for us to become discouraged when the results appear to be poor, and the outward appearance is one of weakness or even failure. This parable tells us that we need to look to God rather than the outward appearance. The kingdom of heaven is full of surprises because it is brought into being by the maker of heaven and earth.

QUESTION

In what way do you find this parable encouraging personally?

PRAYER

Loving God, thank you for the privilege of being involved in the life of your kingdom. I praise you that you are building it day by day. Amen