

## The Parable Of A Mustard Seed

(Inspired by a vision given by the Holy Spirit to Gary Carpenter.)

There was a tiny mustard seed who was greatly depressed, because compared to all the other types of seeds that he saw, he was the tiniest. The little mustard seed was small like a grain of pepper and would often just cry, saying, "I am worthless, I am the least of every seed that can be sown. Just look at that giant corn seed over there. It's huge compared to me and it has a rich golden color. I am totally insignificant compared to him."



One day a farmer hears the mustard seed complaining about its lack of size and power. The farmer tells the mustard seed, "You don't understand yourself at all. You are only looking on the outward appearance of things. Within you lies great potential. There is an image on the inside of you that has the potential to produce a plant that will be 10 to 15 feet tall! No corn plant ever grows that tall! In truth, you are much more mighty than the corn seed."

Now the little mustard seed heard what the farmer said, but it was kind of skeptical. However, it knew that the farmer had much experience in dealing with seeds of all kinds, so it began asking the farmer questions like, "Well, if that's true, how in the world do I get the image that's within me to manifest itself?"

The farmer replied, "Oh, that's simple, all that has to happen is that you must be planted in the ground and die, and the image within you will come forth of itself."

"YIKES!", said the mustard seed. "All I have to do is die? What's the matter with you? I don't want to die! I just want to be powerful!"

The farmer said, "Well, but that's the way it is with every seed. In all of creation there is not a single type of seed that can continue to exist in its present state and release the image within it at the same time. Every seed has to be planted in the ground and die in order for the image within it to come forth. Now, as a mustard seed, you'll no longer exist at all. You will no longer be able to be found, no matter how hard anyone looks for you. You'll still exist, but you'll be transformed in the process, while the image comes forth in you."

The seed responds, "Is there any way that I can remain as I am and still release the image within me?"

"No", says the farmer, "the transformation process won't even begin until you are willing to be planted in the ground and die. And there is something else you should know...the transformation process doesn't happen overnight. There is a growth process involved. First the blade, then the ear, then the full corn in the ear."

The mustard seed says, "Now wait just a minute, first you tell me I'm going to have to die and then you're telling me that even after I'm willing to make the ultimate sacrifice and pay the highest price, I'll have to endure a long growth process before I ever become fruitful? If I'm going to have to pay the high price of dying in order for all of this to happen, then I want to produce fruit tomorrow!"

Now the farmer asks, "What high price are you talking about? When I first heard you, weren't you complaining about how insignificant your life is? Weren't you going on and on and on about how worthless you are and how you so desire to have power? I'm telling you how you can exchange your powerless life for a tremendously fruitful one and now all of a sudden you're placing a high price on the same insignificant life that you were complaining about before? Now which is it? Do you love your life as it is, or do you hate it?"

Well, the little mustard seed thought about that question for quite awhile, and then it responded, "Well, I'm not saying that I truly love my life as it is, but at least I'm very familiar with it. I know this life that I now have, and I know what to expect from day to day. What you're talking about sounds

exciting to me alright, but I think I'm afraid of the unknown. What would that life be like? Can the process be reversed once it begins?"

"No," says the farmer, "It can't be reversed, but it can be aborted at any stage. Many seeds stop the growth process at the blade stage of transformation. They are changed from what they were before alright, but they are still not producing any fruit. Now they can remain at the blade stage for the rest of their lives if they choose to do so. Some seeds go on to the ear stage and then they remain there. At the ear stage there are just the tiniest buds of fruit beginning to form and they show great promise of the harvest to come, but they choose to stop growing at the ear stage and never really become fruitful either. Only a very few allow the transformation process to go on to completion so that they bring forth a mighty harvest, the full corn in the ear."

The mustard seed asks, "Why would any seed choose not to go on to the full corn in the ear? It seems to me that if you choose to die so the growth process can begin, you most certainly would not want to abort the process until the transformation was complete."

"Well," the farmer replied, "right now you are safe in my barn along with all of the other seeds, but once you begin this process and are planted in the ground, it would be like you're taken outside, planted in the field, and once you've become the blade, at that stage, you'll be exposed to the elements of the weather that you've never really experienced before. You'll feel the scorching sun beating down on you. It's not always pleasant, but the truth is you need the sun in order to grow. You'll feel the rain coming down on you. Sometimes it comes as a gentle shower, and you'll enjoy that, but at other times it will come down in torrents and the wind will be whipping you back and forth. The rain isn't always pleasant, but just like the sun, you need the rain to keep growing. Not to mention the many predators that will come and try to take your life from you, such as locusts and grasshoppers. You should be aware that not all plants survive the growth process. Many just give up, wither and some die."

"GASP," says the mustard seed, "you mean it's possible that even if I was to begin this process, there is no guarantee that I'll make it all the way to harvest?"

The farmer responds, "Sad but true. Many plants don't survive. The most important thing for you is to concentrate on putting down deep strong roots first, otherwise, when the sun is scorching hot you will wither. Concentrate on the roots, the part of you that can't be seen. Don't pay much attention to what can be seen above ground, even though that's the part of you that can be seen by others, because if your roots, the part of you that can't be seen are strong and healthy, the part of you that can be seen will be strong and healthy also." Now the farmer continued, "It's also important where you are planted. The ground you are sown in must be free of thorns. It's possible that if there are thorn seeds there, they will become thorn plants and they will grow up so thick they'll choke the life out of you and you'll never bear any fruit."

Well the little mustard seed thought about this for a long time. Finally, he had to ask the farmer a question ... "I believe you when you say that I have this potential of tremendous life on the inside of me. I have a question. Where did that life come from?"

The farmer answered and said, "There was an original seed sown by God. His name is Jesus Christ. He was the first seed in the earth that had the life of God in Him. He was willing to be planted in the ground and die in order that more seeds could be produced by His life. When you were born again, you became the product of His sacrifice. You have His life within you and it will sustain you forever, but if you want to bring His life within you to maturity, to full harvest, then you must be willing to lay down your life as the mustard seed, in order that you can become the full-grown mustard plant ready for harvest. Are you willing to lay down your mustard seed life for the life of Christ within you? He died in the hopes that you would."