

The Mustard Seed

By Lorelei Pepe

When I was 9 years old, my mother gave me a birthday present that puzzled me. It was a pretty gold necklace with a single, tiny little brown seed encased in glass. I liked the chain but not the ugly ornament hanging from it. When I questioned my mom, she just smiled and said- **“one day you will realize the meaning of it and appreciate it”**. She told me a bit about it and to have faith and trust in this little mustard seed, which it was called. I said **“okay”** trusting her, but a bit bewildered. I wore it but it sat in the jewelry box a lot.

Later in life, when I was in my late teens, I came to realize Jesus used this parable in the Bible like many others He told. It was in Matthew 13:31-32*. The mustard seed is so small, that even picking one up can be difficult, yet a mustard seed can grow into a tree at least 8-10 feet tall. Mustard trees grow in abundance beside the Sea of Galilee and in the southern hill country of Judea on the Mount of Olives. They are not individually planted as the birds and the wind carry the seeds and scatter them, a miracle in itself.

According to the Bible, Jesus taught that the Kingdom of God is like both the tiny mustard seed and the full-grown mustard tree. Small or large, God is always there for its growth and ours too. Jesus promised us if we have faith as the grain of a mustard seed we can say to our mountains -- **“move”** and nothing will be impossible. He knows our burdens that we carry in our hearts before we even come to Him.

So, as I grew, my faith did too. Both the necklace and my mom are gone now, but not my faith. I pray to God everyday that it may grow stronger and stronger!

***Matthew 13:31-32 (NIV)**

“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 your seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds of the air come and perch in its branches.”