



The Gospel of Matthew

“Faith as a Mustard Seed”

Matthew 17:14-20

And when they came to the multitude, a man came up to Him, falling on his knees before Him, saying, “Lord, have mercy on my son, for he is a lunatic, and is very ill; for he often falls into the fire, and often into the water.

And I brought him to Your disciples, and they could not cure him.”

And Jesus answered and said, “O unbelieving and perverted generation, how long shall I be with you? How long shall I put up with you? Bring him here to Me.”

And Jesus rebuked him, and the demon came out of him, and the boy was cured at once.

Then the disciples came to Jesus privately and said, “Why could we not cast it out?”

And He said to them, “Because of the littleness of your faith; for truly I say to you, if you have faith as a mustard seed, you shall say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it shall move; and nothing shall be impossible to you.”

Matthew 17:14-20



Faith as a Mustard Seed

Setting:

- a boy that had epileptic-like convulsions and fits brought on by a demon
- the inability of the disciples to heal the boy and cast out the demon



Faith as a Mustard Seed

1. The Exasperation of Jesus

- it is provoked by the failure of His disciples, who in their lack of faith represented this generation
- it displays how great a trial it was for Jesus in to be confronted with such unbelief



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2. The Failure of the Disciples

- “littleness of faith” – not the quantity of faith but lack or poverty of faith (“faithless”)
- they treated the power given to them as their own and failed to exercise personal trust in God’s power



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3. God's Power through Faith

- "*mustard seed*" – not the 'amount' of faith which achieves the impossible, but the power of God, which is available to even the smallest faith
- "*moving mountains*" – proverbial for overcoming great obstacles and difficulties



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Application

1. His Promise

- By faith God enables us to do whatever He commands or calls us to do, especially what seems humanly impossible



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Application

2. His Exhortation

- God requires this kind of faith: trusting in God's ability to accomplish through us what is beyond our own resources