



St. Andrew's Tidings

What do mustard seeds have to do with faith?

The Reverend Raymond Wishart, Deacon

This week's assigned Gospel from the lectionary (Mark 4: 26 – 34) again talks about mustard seeds. At Pub Theology the discussion came up of why does Jesus talk about mustard seeds so much. A reference to mustard seeds occurs six times in the three synoptic gospels in various parables. In this particular parable Jesus tells us that the Kingdom of God can be compared to a mustard seed.

Today most people know little about mustard seeds; where they come from, how big they are, or what's really in the yellow stuff we put on hot dogs. Most of my students probably think it comes from some kind of manmade synthetic blend of various chemicals. In the agrarian world that existed at the time of these parables people did understand mustard plants and their tiny seeds, so the parable made sense to our predecessors. Out of curiosity after the discussion Monday I did do some research on where mustard comes from today but I won't bore you with those details.

What you do need to know is that the mustard seed is a very small seed, but Jesus compares the seed to the Kingdom of God. Urban legend says that mustard seeds are the smallest of all seeds, but that is not really true. At the time of these parables the mustard seeds were the smallest of the seeds that they would have known, so it was the proper seed for Jesus to use in his parables. His audience would understand the size comparison even if many of us today may not get the connection.

Jesus used the mustard seed to illustrate the principles of the Kingdom of God for several reasons. A seed carries within itself the DNA or the blueprint of the parent plant. An acorn produces an oak tree not a hickory tree. A mustard seed is going to produce a mustard plant. The Word of God will produce the Kingdom of God within you.

In this week's Gospel in Mark 4:24 Jesus said, "The kingdom of God is as if a man should scatter seed on the ground, and should sleep by night and rise by day, and

the seed should sprout and grow, he himself does not know how. For the earth yields crops by itself: first the blade, then the head, after that the full grain in the head.”

The Mustard plant grows to a remarkable size in comparison to the original mustard seed. Jesus referred to the principles of the Kingdom of God as a living thing that grows within us to produce remarkable things

All three synoptic gospels share the parable where Jesus says, *“Truly I tell you, if you say to this mountain, ‘Be taken up and thrown into the sea’, and if you do not doubt in your heart, but believe that what you say will come to pass, it will be done for you.”* [Mark 11:23].

Jesus talks about the quality of faith that it takes to do the impossible. It is not the quantity of your faith but the quality of faith (confidence) you have in God and God's Word. Jesus compares mustard seeds to mountains. Jesus says that it only takes a mustard seed amount of faith (confidence) in the principles of the Kingdom of God to remove huge barriers such as mountains. Jesus said if you have a mustard seed amount of faith in the Word of God, nothing would be impossible to you.

Jesus says that it is the believer's responsibility to speak to the mountain. Because you believe Jesus, you can say to a mountain (barrier) move here to there. Nothing is impossible to you because you are a believer and not a doubter.

It only takes a mustard seed amount of faith; [Luke 17:5-6] *The apostles said to the Lord, ‘Increase our faith!’ The Lord replied, ‘If you had faith the size of a mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, ‘Be uprooted and planted in the sea’, and it would obey you.*

Use that mustard seed,

Ray

***BREAKFAST BEGINS THIS WEEK AT
8:30. \$3.00 PER PERSON; \$5.00 PER
COUPLE; \$7.00 PER FAMILY***

Events Coming Up

St Andrew's Spring Concert Series

Fourth of July Celebration on the Front Lawn; Music, Food, Fun and Fireworks.

July 26 at 4 p.m.: Pianist Andrew Lagrimas will present his FSU Senior Doctoral Recital.

CHAIRS

How wonderful it was that at a Memorial Service we did not have enough chairs, but were able to supplement with our folding chairs. We have sold 90 of the new cathedral chairs, but still have 60 chairs to pay for. Here is your chance to honor someone by giving a chair in their name, or giving it as a birthday present, or give one on your birthday. The chairs are \$241.33 each, and the hassocks are \$90.75. Let's finish up the chairs! Thanks in advance. *Anne Staley*

\$\$\$\$\$ Let's Finish up the Change Bucket !!

Bring your change this week, so that we can max it out and let you guess how much. There will be prizes for the ones coming closest to guessing the amount! You can even match the amount!!

ALL THINGS EPISCOPAL: OR "WHAT DO YOU CALL IT?"

Church Customs and Practices-That which we do in the course of worshiping Almighty God is of a piece with what we say or sing. Our physical behavior is the outward expression of our feelings of reverence and devotion. According to William Sydnor, church manners are good manners in the presence of the almighty and merciful God. For instance, if one goes to a party or any gathering at a friend's home, it is a matter of good manners to speak to one's host upon entering and to tell them goodbye before leaving.

Anytime we enter God's house it is a matter of reverence to realize where we are and to be in prayer to ask God to help us be attentive to the promptings of the Spirit. Hence, it has become the practice in the Episcopal Church to enter the worship space on Sundays in reverence and quietly pray before the service.

Reverent Postures:

Standing-We stand to sing God's praise. We stand to affirm our faith when we say the Creed. We stand in reverence at the reading

of the Gospel in the Eucharist. In the early church it was also customary to stand for prayer. This practice is permissible in the Book of Common Prayer.

Sitting-Usually we sit to learn. So we sit to hear the Word of God read to us from the first and second lesson and the Psalm. We also sit for the sermon.

The sign of the Cross-When we were baptized we were signed on our foreheads with the sign of the cross in token that we “are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ’s own forever.” When the bishop or priest blesses or absolves the congregation, they trace a cross with their uplifted hand. As a token of personal devotion it is appropriate for those present to sign themselves with the sign of the cross.

COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROJECTS

Please leave items in the baskets under the bulletin board in Byrne Hall

- **Grocery Cart Ministry**- This month we will be collecting Peanut Butter and/or Jelly for the St. Andrew Baptist Center of Hope Food Pantry. The pantry is expanding its hours 9-noon Monday to Friday and also 6-8 pm on Thursday to serve working people who need assistance. Thank you to everyone who brings food items for us to take to the Center of Hope.
- **Prescription Bottles:** The Center of Hope also has a medical clinic. They need empty prescription bottles with label removed. See Margaret Seeberger if you have questions.

- **Magazines:** Hannah Davis takes current magazines that you are done reading to Sacred Heart Bay Med to distribute to patients and their families.
- **Sample size toiletries:** If you have unopened sample size soaps, shampoos, toothpaste or other items, we can take them to the Center of Hope Medical Ministry for distribution.
- **Supper at Grace: June 18**



Please sign up to cook for Summer Breakfast. There is a signup sheet on the bulletin board in Byrne Hall.

SUPPER AT GRACE

Thursday, June 18th is St. Andrew's turn to host Supper at Grace at Grace Episcopal Church on the Beach. Preparation begins at 10:00 a.m. for approximately two hours in Byrne Hall to prepare 50 sack lunches to be given to guests at Grace. This At 2:00 p.m. we gather at Grace to prepare the evening meal which is served from 6-7. If you can cook, greet, serve, or clean up, we need your help. If you are unable to attend but would like to be a part of this ministry, we need plastic sandwich bags and one gallon zip lock bags. Contact Teri Floore (763-2439) for more info.



Flowers

If you are planning to order flowers to be placed at the Altar, please notify Shirley Gobat at 785-1131 a couple of weeks in advance so that the flowers can be ordered. The cost is \$65.00. Also, remember to sign the new Altar Flowers poster in Byrne Hall.

MOVIE NIGHT

FRIDAY, JUNE 19

6 P.M.

St. Andrew's Episcopal Church Parish Hall

1608 Baker Court



DINNER AND A MOVIE

Dinner: Pizza (vegetarian option available), red and white wine, ginger ale and chilled bottled water.

Trivia Contest at end with winner getting bottle of wine or champagne.

Movie shown on big screen (48-inch) color TV!

No admittance fee, but donations accepted and encouraged. One-hundred percent (100%) of all donations will go to Living Stones building fund.

If you are interested in Centering Prayer, there is a sign-up sheet on the bulletin board

St. Andrew Oaks Garden of Hope Update

Since school is out for summer break, we will begin meeting at the St. Andrew Oaks Garden of Hope on **Wednesdays** at a new time - **9:30 a.m.** Ms. Been, the teacher from Oakland Terrace, sent home flyers in her students' report cards letting their parents know that she plans to do some science experiments at the garden on Wednesdays and allow the students time to observe and tend the garden. We are hoping the parents will arrange for their child to participate. Join us if you can!



Please keep the following in your prayers : Walt, Larry, Gary, Jonathan, Pat, Marty, Rita, Eric, Stephanie, Elijah, Dorothy, Dan, David, Don and Family, Sandra, Anne, Tracy, Page, Norma, Lisa, Elaine, Madison, Shawn and John, Beth, Carol, Virginia, Iva, Frank, Cynthia, Bob, Harry, Montie

We pray for our men and women in the Armed Forces at home and abroad: Jeff, James, Andrew, Kenneth, Evan, Ryan, Joe, Nate, Richard, David, Brian, Jason, Billy, Colin, Todd, Brett, Jordan, Jeremiah