



January 7, 2023

## The Day of Small Things

Luke 13:18-20

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### ***Like a Mustard Seed, Like a Pinch of Leaven***

Small, inobtrusive, understated, disguised, hidden, overlooked, underestimated  
Steady and slow expansion, relentless, inexorable, unstoppable  
Eventually dominates, permeates, spreads out, becomes unavoidable  
And brings such GOOD

### ***The Mustard Seed Theme Through the Scriptures***

God begins with singles: Adam, Noah, Abraham  
God chooses the unlikely: David (**1 Samuel 6:6-13**), David's line (**Matthew 1**)  
Restrained appearances: burning bush (**Exodus 3:2**), low whisper (**1 Kings 19:12**)  
The disappointing second temple: **Ezra 3:12-13**, **Haggai 2:9**, **Zechariah 3:10**  
The incarnation of Jesus, the virgin Mary, the Bethlehem birth: **Luke 1-2**  
The disciples and the Corinthians: **1 Corinthians 1:26**

### ***Gentle God***

Kingdom coming consistent with the character of the King  
I am gentle and lowly of heart: **Matthew 11:29**  
Jesus the perfect representation of God: **Hebrews 1:3**; **John 14:9**  
God's primary posture in relation to the world is meekness (strength under restraint)  
Think of the existence of free will in His image bearers  
Gentleness does not imply weakness. Ice and granite.  
Gentleness actually implies strength: think of the Giant walking among tiny villages  
Powerful frightening images of God: sigh or shout? **Hebrews 12:18-29**

### ***Dismantling Human Hubris***

The human tendency toward ascendancy and the philosophy of evolution  
God's zero-tolerance policy against idolatry  
Not out of divine ego protection but for OUR protection  
Parable of Venus and the Sun  
The subversive strategy of using things that are not to nullify the things that are: **1 Corinthians 1:27-29**  
Shining a spotlight on God as true power source and the Good Center  
The encouragement side of this: our weaknesses need not define nor limit us  
Do not despise the day of small things but see them as seeds of great possibility

## *“When I am Weak, Then I am Strong!”*

- In what part of my current life role and/or responsibilities do I feel inadequate?

**Look for God to show up and surprise you!**

- Who do I often feel inferior to when I am around them?

**Remember God has a unique plan for your life!**

- Name something you are afraid to try for fear of failing.

**Hey, what do you have to lose? God can make all things work together for good!**

- What is something that you commonly tell people you are not good at?

**These might be the very areas God is wanting to show Himself through you!**