



Tiny Yet Glorious, Matthew 13:31-32

Tiny Yet Glorious

- Can Jesus really identify with your rough days?
- Matthew chapter 12 tells us about one of Jesus' rough days
 - **Matthew 12:1-8** Jesus' disciples were hungry and picked some grains of wheat on the Sabbath
 - **Matthew 12:9-14** Jesus healed a man's shriveled hand on the Sabbath, vs 14. NIV, "But the Pharisees went out and plotted how they might kill Jesus."
 - **Matthew 12:15-45** Jesus cast out a demon and was accused of being empowered by the devil himself

Tiny Yet Glorious

- Can Jesus really identify with your rough days?
- Matthew chapter 12 tells us about one of Jesus' rough days
 - **Matthew 12:46-48** Jesus' own family tried to take custody of him
- Jesus really does understand your rough days
 - He understands when you are attempting to do something good, and it gets twisted
 - It is easy for disappointment to take over when challenged like this, when things seem to go sideways
 - It is easy to get overwhelmed

Tiny Yet Glorious

- As Jesus was going through this day, He wasn't alone
 - His disciples were there – What have we got ourselves into?
 - His dedicated followers were hearing all of this – Is this worth the conflict?
 - Just some interested, seeking people – Who should we listen to?
 - The same questions as today

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- **Matthew 13:1-2 NIV**, That same day Jesus went out of the house and sat by the lake. 2 Such large crowds gathered around him that he got into a boat and sat in it, while all the people stood on the shore.
 - Jesus didn't get distracted, off message, silenced, loose sight of who He was and what He was ultimately going to do
 - He wanted His followers to have the same faith in the Kingdom of God as He did, so He began to teach them using parables about it

Tiny Yet Glorious

- He compared the Kingdom of God to a simple, seemingly insignificant seed
 - **Matthew 13:3-23** The Sower
 - **Matthew 13:24-30** Weeds and Seeds
 - This morning Jesus will tell us, His Kingdom appears insignificant but in reality, it is full of glory

Scripture

- **Matthew 13:31-32 NIV**, 31 He told them another parable: “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches.”

Tiny Yet Glorious

- We have sayings today that describe a person
 - Walking at a snail's pace
 - Cute as a bunny
 - Two fries short of a happy meal
 - The lights are on, but no one is home

Tiny Yet Glorious

- There were similar Jewish sayings using the mustard seed to mean small, insignificant, barely noticed, not important
- Jesus even said we can do great things if we have faith as small as a mustard seed ([Matt. 17:20](#))
- With His disciples and followers struggling between the Jewish Religious Leaders and Himself, Jesus wanted them to know glorious things are hidden in tiny seeds

The Kingdom of Heaven appears insignificant, but it contains the power of creation

- What is the kingdom of heaven?
 - Heaven's rule on earth, as it is in heaven, in the hearts and lives of those who willingly submit to God's authority through the work of Jesus Christ
 - **Matthew 6:10 NIV**, 9 "Our Father in heaven, hallowed be your name, 10 your kingdom come, your will be done, on earth as it is in heaven.

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- What is the kingdom of heaven?
 - **Luke 17:20-21 NLT**, 20 One day the Pharisees asked Jesus, “When will the Kingdom of God come?” Jesus replied, “The Kingdom of God can’t be detected by visible signs. 21 You won’t be able to say, ‘Here it is!’ or ‘It’s over there!’ For the Kingdom of God is already among you.”

The Kingdom of Heaven appears insignificant, but it contains the power of creation

- How does one enter into the kingdom of heaven?
 - **John 3:5-7 NIV**, 5 Jesus answered, “Very truly I tell you, no one can enter the kingdom of God unless they are born of water and the Spirit. 6 Flesh gives birth to flesh, but the Spirit gives birth to spirit. 7 You should not be surprised at my saying, ‘You must be born again.’”

The Kingdom of Heaven appears insignificant, but it contains the power of creation

- Here is an insignificant appearing Rabbi, from an insignificant village, with insignificant parents, having insignificant religious training, with insignificant followers
 - Yet He is creator of all
 - **John 1:3 NIV**, Through him all things were made; without him nothing was made that has been made.
 - **MSG**, Everything was created through him; nothing—not one thing! — came into being without him.

The Kingdom of Heaven appears insignificant, but it contains the power of creation

- The Kingdom of God holds the power to create, restore, refresh, make new those who enter its gates
 - Turn rebellious sinners into forgiven, faithful children of a holy God
 - Convert fractured lives, homes, futures into healthy, whole, meaningful lives to the glory of God
 - Bring hope to all areas of hopeless
 - Provide a way through death into eternity where we stand before a holy, just, righteous God and be declared righteous and accepted

The Kingdom of Heaven appears insignificant, but it contains the power of creation

- Amazing Grace by John Newton

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound
That saved a wretch like me
I once was lost, but now I'm found
Was blind but now I see

- All of this coming from the power in the Kingdom of God through Jesus Christ our Lord

The Kingdom of Heaven is a seed that must be planted to receive a future harvest

- **Vs. 31**, “The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field.”
- Jesus continued to talk about the Kingdom of Heaven being like a seed that was planted on purpose
 - A seed in the hand will remain a seed without producing the results at its heart
 - A seed of knowledge discovered in a book will put information in our minds but once again, no harvest unless applied to your life
 - It must be planted in your heart, mind, will if you want its fruit in your life

The Kingdom of Heaven is a seed that must be planted to receive a future harvest

- Too many today try to keep the Kingdom of God external and they wonder why there is little power internally, in their lives
 - Jesus had to be planted in the heart of a tomb to produce salvation, the fruit, for mankind
 - This farmer in the parable chose to purposely take his mustard seed and plant it in his field
 - So often we try and plant the Kingdom of God in the lives of others when we have not first planted it in ours
 - Have you planted God's Kingdom seed in your life

The Kingdom of Heaven will expand in your life to minister to this lost and hurting world

- The farmer then gave the mustard seed time to grow and mature
 - He didn't dig his seed up to see how it was doing
 - He didn't get impatient and walk away from his seed
 - He trusted the soil, water, sun but he most trusted the seed

The Kingdom of Heaven will expand in your life to minister to this lost and hurting world

- We must give the Kingdom of God time to bring about change in our lives and life events
 - It takes time to produce mature faith in the life of a believer
 - It takes war to teach us to let go of ourselves and grasp Jesus
 - It takes time to fully heal a fractured heart, family, past, future
 - We must understand these may not come back as you expect but it can come back different and good

The Kingdom of Heaven will expand in your life to minister to this lost and hurting world

- We at times want to cover up our war inside with Christian activities making it appear all within us is fully healed and glorious when it is not – we are still broken, but good
 - As we learn we grow, as we grow we mature, as we mature we begin to minister in the lives of others
 - We are able to allow the tired, weak, hurting, fractured to rest within our branches of faith

The Kingdom of Heaven will expand in your life to minister to this lost and hurting world

- We can't solve all their problems
 - Jesus never solved all the problems of the people he touched
 - There are things they must work out for themselves under God's power and presence
 - But we can provide a place of comfort, understanding, and knowledge as we point them to Jesus

Tiny Yet Glorious

- One of the hardest things a Christian will struggle with is grasping the hard work necessary to bring the power of the Kingdom into their daily lives
- Our bodies and minds have developed “*muscle memory*” while living
 - Muscle Memory - the ability to reproduce a particular movement without conscious thought, acquired as a result of frequent repetition of that movement
 - This also applies to how we think and process events of life
 - You can't just unlearn it; it must be replaced with a new “*muscle memory*” that is stronger than the old and that takes time and repetition

Tiny Yet Glorious

- The deeper the scar the longer the healing
 - This is why we must keep our scars shallow
- This war we are in will be full of stumbles as we struggle to create new *“memory muscles”*
- Then one day we will discover we are operating out of our new rather than the old more often than not
- Jesus provides us hope, power, acceptance in the Kingdom of God
- We supply the grit and determination

Tiny Yet Glorious

- Jesus said it like this in [Matthew 11:28-30 MSG](#), “Are you tired? Worn out? Burned out on religion? Come to me. Get away with me and you’ll recover your life. I’ll show you how to take a real rest. Walk with me and work with me—watch how I do it. Learn the unforced rhythms of grace. I won’t lay anything heavy or ill-fitting on you. Keep company with me and you’ll learn to live freely and lightly.”



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