

THE POWER OF THE SMALL START

Let us pray. Heavenly Father, thank You for Your Word. Sometimes we feel so small, so weak, and so hidden in this big world. But today, open our eyes to see the hidden power inside the seeds You have planted in us. Let Your Holy Spirit change us from the inside out. In Jesus' name, Amen.

The Word of God: Matthew 13:31-33

He told them another parable: "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 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."

He told them still another parable: "The Kingdom of Heaven is like yeast that a woman took and mixed into about sixty pounds of flour until it worked all through the dough."

The Illusion of "Too Small"

In our culture today, we love big things. We love big numbers, big successes, and big ministries. Sometimes, we carry this mindset into our spiritual lives. We think, "If I don't have a giant faith, if I don't know the whole Bible, or if my life feels messy and small right now, I cannot be useful to God."

But Jesus flips our values upside down. He uses two very ordinary, tiny things to describe the Kingdom of God: A mustard seed and yeast.

A mustard seed is so small you can barely feel it on your fingertip.

A pinch of yeast disappears completely when it is mixed into a heavy bag of flour.

Both things look insignificant at the start. Both things look like they don't matter. But Jesus is saying: **Do not despise a small beginning, because God specializes in hidden potential.

A Story from Brandon: The Small Beginnings of a New Life

When I was serving in Brandon, Manitoba, I met many immigrant families and international students. When people first arrive in a quiet, cold college town in central Canada, everything feels overwhelming.

I remember talking to another family who had just arrived. In their home country, they had status, great careers, and a large circle of friends. But in Brandon, they had to start from zero.

The father told me, "Pastor, I feel so small here. My English is not good enough to get a professional job, so I am working a basic entry-level job. I don't know anyone. I feel like a

nobody. Can God even use me here? How can I grow spiritually when I am just trying to survive?"

They felt exactly like that tiny mustard seed—buried in the cold, dark soil of a new environment, invisible to the world.

Bringing the Story into the Word:

Many of us feel like that family in Brandon. We look at our current situation—our broken relationship, our financial struggle, or our weak prayer life

But remember what happens to the mustard seed. It doesn't stay a seed. It grows into a tree that provides shelter for others. God did not send that family to Brandon to bury them; He planted them. And there is a massive difference between being buried and being planted.

The Miracle In the Seed: The Outward Growth

Why does the mustard seed grow into a giant bush? Because it relies on the life-force *inside* the seed, not the environment around it.

I watched that family in Brandon over the next two years. They didn't wait until they were rich or fluent in English to serve God. They started with what they had—a tiny seed of faith. They opened their small apartment to host a student prayer group. They cooked simple meals for lonely international students during the long, freezing winters.

Slowly, their "small seed" started to break through the soil. That student group grew. Their apartment became a refuge, a safe haven. Just like Jesus said: "It becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches."

The lonely, the stressed, and the broken students (the "birds" of the air) found warmth and shelter in the home of a family who once thought they were "too small" to matter.

The Miracle of the Yeast: The Inward Transformation

In the second, Jesus talks about yeast. Yeast works silently. You cannot see it working, but you can see the results. It changes the nature of the dough from the inside out.

Spiritual growth is often like yeast. It is not always noisy or dramatic.

It is the quiet choice to read one chapter of the Bible in the morning.

It is the quiet choice to forgive someone who hurt you.

It is the quiet choice to say "Thank You, Lord" in the middle of a hard day.

That mother and daughter from Taiwan we talked about earlier—they learned this lesson too. When their investments caused them troubles, they couldn't fix the big outside problem immediately. But God worked like yeast in their hearts. The trouble forced them to pray. It changed their inner character. It made them softer, kinder, and more dependent on God. The transformation was internal before it became external.

Radical Hope: God is Working in the Dark

If you are listening to this today and you feel invisible, tired, or stuck in a small place, this message is your anchor of hope.

1. Your small start is not your final destination. God sees the tree inside your seed. Do not look at your current limitations; look at the unlimited power of the God who is in you.
2. God works in the hidden places. Just because you cannot see the yeast moving doesn't mean the dough isn't rising. God is working in your life right now, even in the quiet, dark, and difficult seasons.

Trust the process. Keep loving God in the small things. Open your life to Him, and watch how He turns your tiny seed of faith into a shelter of blessing for the world.

Amen.