

# A Word on Wednesday from Pastor Tonia

## "The Mustard Seed of Hope" 3/22/23

*And Jesus said, "With what can we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable shall we use for it? It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when sown upon the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on earth; yet when it is sown it grows up and becomes the greatest of all shrubs, and puts forth large branches, so the birds of the air can make nests in its shade." (Mark 4:30-34)*

Jesus used parables from our everyday lives and situation to explain truths we were not able to understand. Here He uses a story of mustard seed's worth of faith to describe the kingdom of God. Our Father who art in heaven. What will the kingdom of God be like? I'm not sure I understand it any better after the telling of the story, but I understand tiny seeds and tiny faith and tiny hope.

When faced with difficulties in life, hardship, heartbreak, unwanted diagnosis, failure, loss, it's so easy to say, "I've lost hope." How can I face this? What's going to happen to me now? How will I go on? How can I handle this? Really? On top doing of everything else? Where is God? After the shock of hearing your boss say, "We are going to be downsizing." Of signing the divorce decree. Of watching your home burn. Of hearing the Surgeon say, "I'm so sorry, we just couldn't save him." Of realizing the bills due are larger than the balance in your account. Of hearing the doctor say, "It's cancer."

We watch our dreams fade, our plans fail, and now, aren't I glad I'm listening to this tale of woe. Thy kingdom come, Thy will be done. Can we hold on to what we have been told, in what we at one time believed? That God is with us in the darkness, that God loves us and knows His plan for our lives. That God is loving and kind, gentle and generous. Can we hold on to hope and take that next step? On earth as it is in heaven.

Save us from the time of trial. If we have faith, if we have a tiny bit of hope, we can face this obstacle. We can grow our faith. We can bloom. We can encourage others. We can provide strength to others who suffer and have lost hope. We can be a part of the mustard plant network, receiving and spreading hope. We can offer a safe place for those who need rest - from their trials.

We continue with broken hearts, wounded souls, battered bones, and lost dreams. We continue and we grow, and we bloom and we reflect the love of God. All of this with just hope the size of a mustard seed. The size of our hope is not what matters, it is in Whom we have placed our hope which counts. We leave our lives in the hands of the Creator, the Healer, the Lover of our souls. As we place out trust in God who is trustworthy. We are secure as we step out into the unknow. Thine is the kingdom and the power and the glory forever and ever.

Remember, our laments are surrounded by God's promise of hope as we journey through this wilderness which leads us to Easter morning. As we wander the unknown, let us abound in hope, for God's love and forgiveness washes over our guilt and our shame to set us free. We choose to go on, even when we don't know how, to trust God and to continue with just a Mustard Seed of Hope.

### **Please pray with me:**

Creator God, plant within me even a tiny seed of hope when I feel I can't continue. Plant within me this teeny bit of faith, so I can face this day and show myself and others I'm made of sterner stuff than even I realize. Help me to realize everything I face, every difficulty with which I have to deal, makes me stronger, causes my hope to grow and forms me into the person I was created to be.

**Amen.**