

# Lesson 3: The Mustard Seed

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**Reference:** **Please Read:** Matthew 13:31-32; **Mark 4:30-32**; Luke 13:18-19

**Theme:** Faith as a Seed Starts Small but Accomplishes Great Things- Multiplication

**Context:** Jesus' Teachings Concerning the Kingdom of God; Works & Words as Seeds

## Introduction:

Often times we think big is better, and sometimes it is, but some very small things contain a tremendous amount of power.

## Big Things in Small Packages

**Hebrews 11:3**, "By faith we understand that the universe was formed at God's command, so that what is seen was not made out of what was visible."

We cannot see electrons or atoms, but they are real and serve as the building blocks of the universe. Many living things, good and bad are on a microscopic level, but just because they are unseen to the naked eye does not render them insignificant.

**John 6:63**, "The Spirit gives life; the flesh counts for nothing. The words I have spoken to you are spirit and they are life."

- For example, we cannot see words, they are invisible but contain great power
- It was through words that God created the universe
  - o You'll notice in Scripture that God never does anything without saying it first
- It is also through the words of Jesus Christ that the universe holds together

Hebrews 1:3 AMP, "...*upholding and maintaining and guiding and propelling the universe by His mighty word of power.*"

- The power of God is contained in the Word of God- the Word of His Power!
- **Hebrews 4:12** declares that God Word is "*sharper than any double-edged sword.*"
- **2 Tim. 3:16** states that God's Word is "*God-breathed,*" full of the life and nature of God
- God's Word never fails or returns to Him empty handed- **Isaiah 55:10-11**; **Mark 13:31**

God is in the multiplication business, like when he took the little's boy's lunch and multiplied it to feed a few thousand people in **John 6:5-13**. Words are small, but when spoken with faith from the heart, great things will happen- **Ephesians 3:20**.

**Question:** "Can you think of small, seemingly insignificant things that account for a whole lot?"

**Genesis 1:26**, “Then God said, ‘Let us make man in our image, in our likeness, and let them rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air, over the livestock, over all the earth, and over all the creatures that move along the ground.’”

- God created us in His image, and gave mankind dominion over all the earth
- That authority is exercised and released through words
- Words have the power of life and death; salvation and damnation in them
- Our mouth is like a loaded gun, so many go around shooting their mouths off recklessly

**Matthew 12:36-37**, “But I tell you that men will have to give account on the Day of Judgment for every careless word they have spoken. For by your words you will be acquitted, and by your words you will be condemned.”

### **Proverbs 18:21**

The tongue has the power of life and death, and those who love it will eat its fruit.

- **Please Read: Matthew 8:8-10**
- Notice Jesus’ response to the Centurion and his understanding of authority
  - o *“I have not found anyone in Israel with such great faith.”*
- The Centurion understood that words change things and solicit obedience

### **2 Corinthians 4:13**

It is written: “I believed; therefore I have spoken.” With that same spirit of faith we also believe and therefore speak.

- Changing things with words is at the heart of the “Spirit of Faith”
- The Word of Faith principles that gets the Word in our heart to believe- **Romans 10:5-9**
- It’s the Spirit of Faith that actually moves the mountains according to **Mark 11:22-23**
  - o Jesus said, verse 23, *“I tell you the truth, if anyone says to this mountain...”*
- The mountain representing the problem or obstacle- speak to it, don’t pray about it
- Often Christians are waiting on God to deal with the problem, when God is waiting on us
- We’re under God’s authority to exercise it on His behalf- **James 4:7; 1 Peter 5:8-9**

Through the power of attorney Jesus gave us His Name to use on His behalf to deal with the devil and the junk he tries to put on us in life- **Matthew 28:18-20; Mark 16:15-18; Luke 10:18-20**. We don’t have authority over people’s wills, neither does God. But we can trample the enemy under our feet- **Luke 10:19-20!**

**Question:** “Why are spoken words so important to the operation of authority?”

- **Luke 17:3-5**, Jesus told the disciples to forgive without limit when the offender repents
- Disciple's response was, *"Increase our Faith."* In other words we need big faith for that
- Jesus said the opposite is true in verse 6, *"If you have faith as small as a mustard seed..."*
- To forgive is to walk in love; takes faith to release God's Grace or power to forgive
  - o **Galatians 5:6; Ephesians 2:8-9**
- God's Grace is God's power at work in us who believe, faith releases that power in us
  - o **Acts 20:32; Hebrews 4:1-3.**

**Luke 17:5-6**, "The apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' He replied, 'If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, Be uprooted and planted in the sea, and it will obey you.'"

According to the Parable of the Sower in Luke 8:11, *"The seed is the word of God."* We sow God's Word when we speak God's Word- the sowing is in the saying. So faith as a seed is to *"say to this mulberry tree"* or as in Mark 11:22, *"if anyone says to this mountain"* to move.

- Mark 11:23- *"Go, throw yourself into the sea..."*
- Luke 17:6- *"Be uprooted and planted in the sea..."*
- What would happen? It would obey you! Why us, because God gave us the dominion
- **Genesis 1:26**, Jesus has restored our lost authority that Adam lost- **Luke 4:5-6**
- Because of God's Grace and the gift of righteousness we can reign in life through Jesus
  - o The Amplified translation puts it, *"reign as kings in life"* in **Romans 5:17**

### **John 10:34-35**

Jesus answered them, "Is it not written in your Law, 'I have said you are gods'? If he called them 'gods,' to whom the word of God came — and the Scripture cannot be broken."

- Jesus was quoting **Psalms 82:6**, Jesus took back what the devil stole in the Garden
- Satan is still the god of this world system for now- **1 Cor. 15:24-28; 2 Cor. 4:4**
- He is not god over us! Jesus is now our Lord and Jesus defeated the devil
  - o **Colossians 1:13-14; 2:15; Hebrews 2:14-15; 1 John 3:8; Revelation 1:18**
- All things are possible to those who believe God's Word in their hearts- **Mark 9:23**
  - o And the Kingdom of God is within us right now- Luke 17:20-21

So the key is not having more faith, but knowing how it use it- releasing faith filled words. By speaking God's Word in faith from our heart, we can move mountains, mulberry trees and anything else that tries to hinder us from accomplishing God's will for our lives.

**Question:** "Do you have examples of speaking faith filled words to problems-what happened?"