

A Mustard Seed Faith **Matthew 13:31-32**

Song: Little Is Much When God Is in It

Hymn: Great Is Thy Faithfulness

Symbol: Mustard Seed & Mustard Bush

Everyday miracles. Seeds planted in the ground burst forth into shrubs, flowers, and trees. A tiny egg is fertilized and is nurtured in the womb to be born nine months later into a living miracle of God's love. A few notes and simple scales are put down on blank white page and arranged into a beautiful sonata. "Once upon a time"...a simple beginning of many wonderful, complex fairytales that fill a young child's heart with wonder and joy. One man's peaceful resistance to racism leads to an entire civil rights movement. A tiny mustard seed is dropped into the fertile, warm spring soil and amazingly grows into a shrub that provides shade and protection for birds and other animals.

Everyday miracles. That is where God is active. Unfortunately, we often miss those everyday miracles because we are looking for the spectacular, over-the-top demonstrations of God's presence in the world. The mustard seed parable has many different implications. Biblical scholars have researched and compared and explored this text and the parallel stories in the other gospels for hundreds of years. This parable teaches us that if we truly want to experience God's kingdom then we need to open our eyes and our hearts and look all around us. God's kingdom is a reality now, today, in the tiny miracles all around us. Who would ever imagine that the tiniest of seeds could germinate and grow into such a huge shrub? Even though the actual mustard seed shrub might not be as an impressive plant in the garden as one is led to believe in the gospels, it is a significant transformation.

So what does this parable have to say to Cumberland Presbyterian Women's Ministry? What does this story have to say to women in particular? Is it just a simple story for the gardeners among us or does God have something unique to say to Women's Ministry? Maybe it is a ***message of patience and perseverance***. Plant the seeds of faith everyday. Nurture those that God has placed in your care or your path. Wait and watch expectantly for the miracle that God is even now working! Maybe it is a ***message of hope***. For those women's ministry groups and regions who feel small and insignificant, the parable of the mustard seed is one of hope and encouragement. You never, ever know what kind of miracle God is going to perform from the tiniest of actions. Remain faithful to your calling in Christ. Serve others with the gifts with which God has blessed you. Wait and watch expectantly for the miracle that God is even now working! **Everyday miracles!** They are happening all around, let us open our eyes this year to see and experience God's kingdom as it comes to us!