



The Importance of Small Beginnings

"The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed" (Matthew 13:31).

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Many of the big ventures we see today started in a small way. Surely, the young shall grow, e.g.:

- 1) The investment of 3p that grew to nearly £1 (at a time when 12p used to make one shilling, and 20 shillings made a pound).
- 2) A church that decreased from 300 to 23 before becoming a large worldwide Ministry.
- 3) A supermarket chain that started from a wheelbarrow street selling boy.
- 4) The first electric light was so dim that a candle was needed to see its socket.
- 5) One of the first steamboats took 32 hours to chug its way from New York to Albany, a distance of 150 miles.
- 6) Wilbur and Orville Wright's first airplane flight lasted only 12 seconds.
- 7) The first automobiles travelled 2 to 4 miles per hour and broke down often. Carriages would pass them with their passengers shouting, "Get a horse!"

Jesus used the parable of the mustard seed to illustrate the importance of small beginnings.

"Another parable put he forth unto them, saying, The kingdom of heaven is like to a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and sowed in his field: 32 Which indeed is the least of all seeds: but when it is grown, it is the greatest among herbs, and becometh a tree, so that the birds of the air come and lodge in the branches thereof" (Matthew 13:31-32).

"And he said, Whereunto shall we liken the kingdom of God? or with what comparison shall we compare it? 31 It is like a grain of mustard seed, which, when it is sown in the earth, is less than all the seeds that be in the earth: 32 But when it is sown, it groweth up, and becometh greater than all herbs, and shooteth out great branches; so that the fowls of the air may lodge under the shadow of it" (Mark 4:30-32).

"Then said he, Unto what is the kingdom of God like? and whereunto shall I resemble it? 19 It is

"For who hath despised the day of small things?" (Zechariah 4:10).

like a grain of mustard seed, which a man took, and cast into his garden; and it grew, and waxed a great tree; and the fowls of the air lodged in the branches of it" (Luke 13:18-19).

The mustard seed in this parable illustrates the Kingdom of heaven, and teaches that:

- 1) A small living seed has great potentials.
- 2) The life and potential of the small seed remains dormant until a man recognises it, then takes the seed and sows it.
- 3) The man sows the seed in the field / his garden, before it germinated. Had he just buried it in the dry ground in his house, the seed would not grow. Growth only takes place when the seed is sown.
- 4) Size is not the issue but the inherent potentials. The 'least of all the seeds' grows up to become a tree - 'the greatest among herbs', providing shelter for birds, food for man and multiplied seeds for more trees.

To maximise the potentials of small beginnings, we need to:

- 1) Recognise their potentials and not despise days of small things (Zechariah 4:10).
- 2) Be "faithful in a very little" (Luke 19:17).
- 3) Never give up (Job 17:9) in realisation of God's promise that "The path of the just is as the shining light, that shineth more and more unto the perfect day" (Proverbs 4:18). "There was long war between the house of Saul and the house of David: but David waxed stronger and stronger..." (2 Samuel 3:1). Let the challenges of a long war make you grow from strength to strength. Had David given up, he would not have become the victorious king of Israel.
- 4) Apply diligence (Proverbs 10:4; 13:4; 21:5; 22:29).