



Mustard  
Sermon Discussion Questions - June 6, 2021

***Scripture Passages:***

**Matthew 13:31-32** 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.”

**Matthew 17:20** He replied, “Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.”

**Matthew 17:22-23** When they came together in Galilee, he said to them, “The Son of Man is going to be delivered into the hands of men. They will kill him, and on the third day he will be raised to life.” And the disciples were filled with grief.

**Hebrews 11:1** Now faith is confidence in what we hope for and assurance about what we do not see.

**Hebrews 11:32-35** And what more shall I say? I do not have time to tell about Gideon, Barak, Samson, and Jephthah, about David and Samuel and the prophets, who through faith conquered kingdoms, administered justice, and gained what was promised; who shut the mouths of lions, quenched the fury of the flames, and escaped the edge of the sword; whose weakness was turned to strength; and who be-

came powerful in battle and routed foreign armies. Women received back their dead, raised to life again.

**John 11:21-22** “Lord,” Martha said to Jesus, “if you had been here, my brother would not have died. But I know that even now God will give you whatever you ask.”

**John 11:23-27** Jesus said to her, “Your brother will rise again.” Martha answered, “I know he will rise again in the resurrection at the last day.” Jesus said to her, “I am the resurrection and the life. The one who believes in me will live, even though they die; and whoever lives by believing in me will never die. Do you believe this?” “Yes, Lord,” she replied, “I believe that you are the Messiah, the Son of God, who is to come into the world.”

**John 11:32** When Mary reached the place where Jesus was and saw him, she fell at his feet and said, “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.”

**John 11:37** But some of them said, “Could not he who opened the eyes of the blind man have kept this man from dying?”

**John 11:38-39** Jesus, once more deeply moved, came to the tomb. It was a cave with a stone laid across the entrance. “Take away the stone,” he said. “But, Lord,” said Martha, the sister of the dead man, “by this time there is a bad odor, for he has been there four days.”

**John 11:44** The dead man came out, his hands and feet wrapped with strips of linen, and a cloth around his face. Jesus said to them, “Take off the grave clothes and let him go.”

### ***Warm Up:***

One of the things that reminds us of summer is hotdogs and mustard! What are some of your summertime food staples? What are a few things that always remind you of summer?

### ***Discussion:***

In the beginning of his message, Pastor Matt mentions Jesus talking about mustard multiple times throughout scripture.

What are some stories of mustard in scripture you remember? What stands out most about them? What might Jesus be communicating about faith in that particular passage?

In Matthew 13:31-32, Jesus says the kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed.

If you were to describe the kingdom of heaven, what would you say it is like? Why? What are some differences between what you said and a mustard seed? Why do you think Jesus used the example of a mustard seed?

Excerpt from Pastor Matt:

*It's like Jesus keeps trying to lift our eyes up from what we see to something bigger, grander, greater. It's almost like He's trying to help us grasp another reality altogether than the one we've begun to accept as normal.*

Why might Jesus need to lift our eyes from what we see? What might the role of our faith be in this process?

In his message, Pastor Matt discussed the idea that the people believed to have faith were the *neat and cleaned up religious people*.

How might Jesus' use of the mustard seed, contrast this belief?

Pastor Matt phrased Hebrews 11:1 in our own words:

*Faith is the inner guts of my confidence that Jesus is who He says He is and the assurance that He will keep every promise He has ever made.*

What might it look like to have inner guts confidence?

In his message, Pastor Matt described two errors we make when reading passages like the *hall of faith* chapter:

First error - *We idolize people of faith because of the amazing things they saw and experienced.*

Second error - *We make these things into myths because we can't imagine them happening to us.*

Which error do you find yourself falling into or leaning towards? Why might that be? How might both of these errors miss the point?

Read John 11:21-43.

Who do you relate to most? Why? What stands out most to you? Why? What might you take-away about faith from this passage?

Excerpt from Pastor Matt:

*Faith is built on God's perfect track record.*

What are some of your favorite stories of God fulfilling His promises throughout scripture?

What are some of your favorite stories of God fulfilling His promises throughout your life?

How might this impact your faith?

### **Next Steps:**

Excerpt from Pastor Matt:

*Jesus went about things completely differently. When Jesus lived and died in the shadow of the most powerful empire known to history, He didn't serve it. When He taught with power and authority, He didn't need the approval of religious people. When He started a revolution, He didn't do it with wealth, power, politics, or violence. And, Jesus didn't come with a rigid moral code to help everyone get their act together... Jesus kept talking about faith.*

**Take some time to think about your relationship with the culture around you. Do you see your faith working? If so, where, how? If not, what are some practical steps you can take to bring faith into your interactions with the culture around you? Does your faith make your interactions with the culture around you look different than the rest of culture?**

Pastor Matt said, "Faith isn't about what you have done, or can do. It's about what Jesus has done, and can do!"

**What have you seen Jesus already do in your life?**