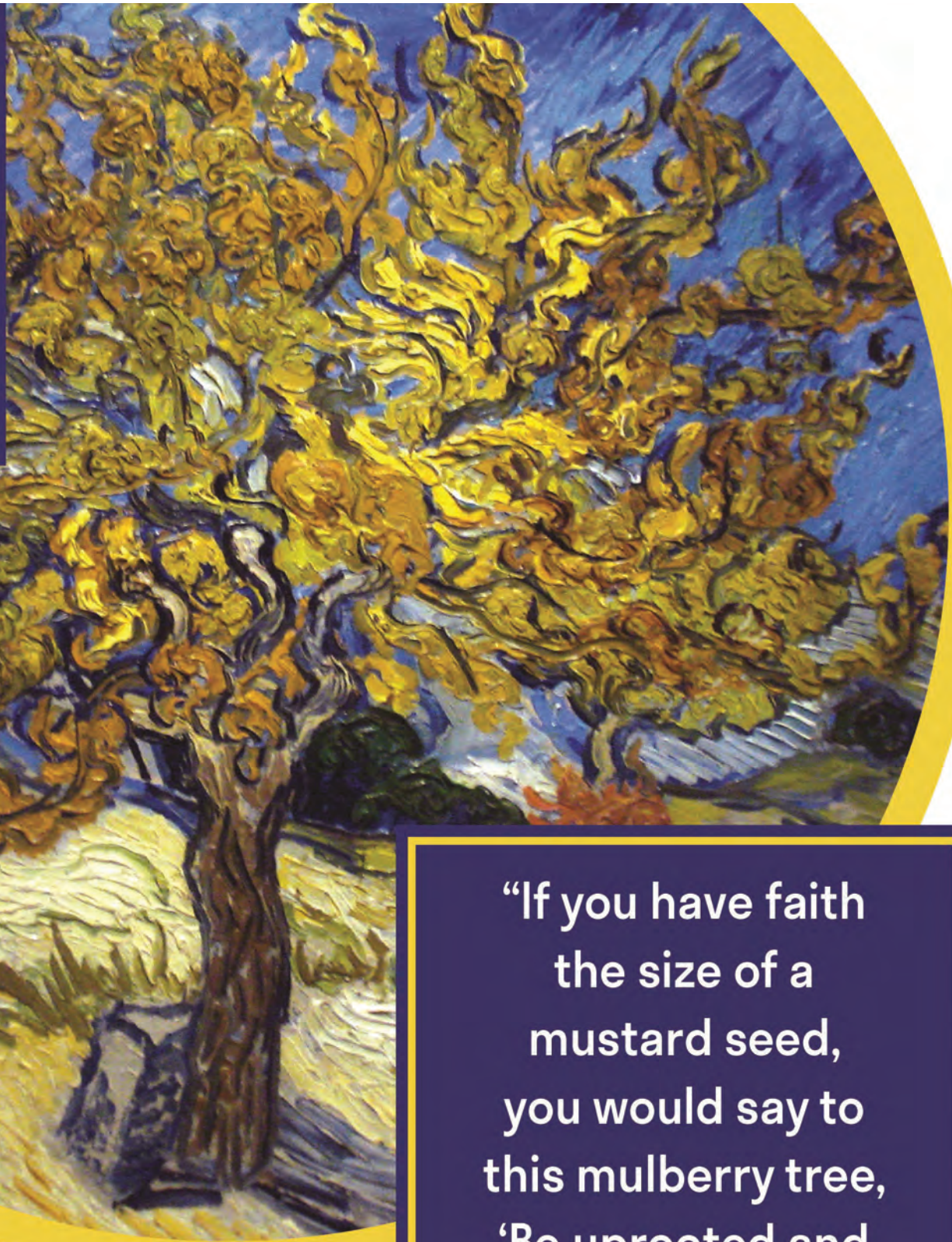


October 2, 2022

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TWENTY-SEVENTH
SUNDAY IN
ORDINARY TIME

“If you have faith
the size of a
mustard seed,
you would say to
this mulberry tree,
‘Be uprooted and
planted in the sea,’
and it would obey you.”

Luke 17:6

The Gift Of Faith

Faith is a gift. When the disciples asked Jesus to increase their faith, they were going to the source of that faith with their request. God is the giver of all good gifts, including faith. When we put our faith in Christ, we believe that God is with us, even though we cannot physically see God. Or can we? If we are attentive, we see the evidence of God's presence in the love of family and friends, care poured out in service of our neighbors, the living beauty of creation. This is not blind faith, but rather is the result of seeing with the eyes of faith. Followers of Jesus look beyond what is apparent to see what is possible with the power and presence of the Holy Spirit within and among us.

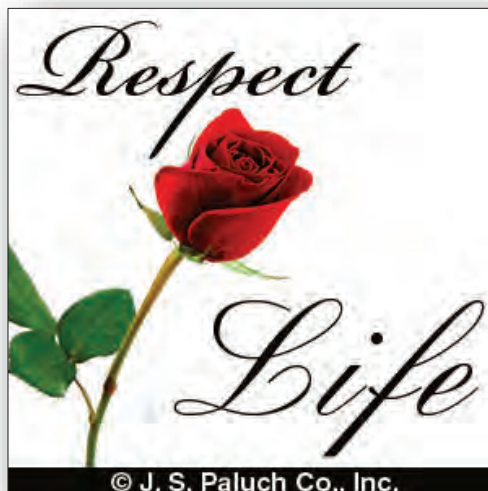
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Saints and Special Observances

Sunday:	Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time; Respect Life Sunday
Tuesday:	St. Francis of Assisi; Yom Kippur (Jewish Day of Atonement) begins at sunset
Wednesday:	St. Faustina Kowalska; Blessed Francis Xavier Seelos
Thursday:	St. Bruno; Blessed Marie-Rose Durocher
Friday:	Our Lady of the Rosary; First Friday
Saturday:	Blessed Virgin Mary

Readings for the Week

Monday:	Gal 1:6-12; Ps 111:1b-2, 7-9, 10c; Lk 10:25-37
Tuesday:	Gal 1:13-24; Ps 139:1b-3, 13-15; Lk 10:38-42
Wednesday:	Gal 2:1-2, 7-14; Ps 117:1bc, 2; Lk 11:1-4
Thursday:	Gal 3:1-5; Lk 1:69-75; Lk 11:5-13
Friday:	Gal 3:7-14; Ps 111:1b-6; Lk 11:15-26
Saturday:	Gal 3:22-29; Ps 105:2-7; Lk 11:27-28
Sunday:	2 Kgs 5:14-17; Ps 98:1-4; 2 Tm 2:8-13; Lk 17:11-19



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Today's Readings

First Reading — In spite of violence, destruction, and ruin, the just person, because of faith, will live (Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4).

Psalm — If today you hear his voice, harden not your hearts (Psalm 95).

Second Reading — Bear hardship with the strength that comes from God (2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14).

Gospel — Lord, increase our faith! (Luke 17:5-10).

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Prayer Of The Week

Almighty ever-living God,
who in the abundance of your kindness
surpass the merits and the desires of those who
entreat you, pour out your mercy upon us
to pardon what conscience dreads
and to give what prayer does not dare to ask.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you
in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God, for ever and ever.

Reflection question:

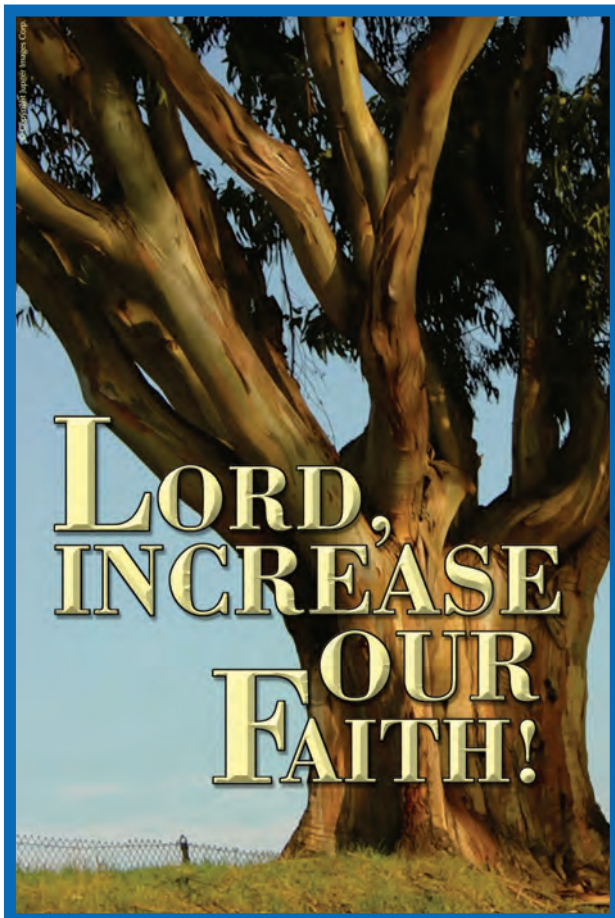
How has God's kindness surpassed what I think I deserve?

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Treasures From Our Tradition

Sometimes human relationships go awry, but Christ's choice for us is irrevocable. In marriage celebrations, the Church always recalls God's faithfulness to help prepare married couples for enduring the inevitable rough spots. The Byzantine liturgy does this by adorning the couple with crowns that remind them of the martyr's crown. The couple therefore takes on a vocation of witnessing to the sacredness of life in all of its suffering and joy, and of keeping their eyes fixed on the banquet of heaven. In Eastern theology, people have a liturgical vocation to give God praise, and marriage fits within that plan. It is not so much saying prayers that counts, but becoming prayer. Interestingly, in this liturgy the couple never utters a word other than joining in the community's chants; there are no marriage vows as such. There is therefore not a hint of our Western Christian sense that marriage is a legal contract. Rather, it is all about living out one's baptismal vocation, embracing the cross, pouring oneself out in love, and opening to the grace of the Holy Spirit.

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.



Taking Care of Business

When we were kids, my brothers and sisters and I thought that you were not supposed to say the blessing before meals in a restaurant. You were not supposed to flaunt your faith in public. It probably had more to do with fear of being embarrassed if non-believers saw us praying. I think of that when I hear St. Paul telling Timothy, "God did not give us a spirit of cowardice but rather of power and love and self-control" (2 Timothy 1:7). All three readings mention the difficulties that people of faith will encounter, and each reading has its own way of facing those hardships.

Jesus gives the practical advice: Look at the difficulties of being a disciple as just part of your job. No servant expects to be praised by his master for doing his job. So if the Lord says I must forgive those who hurt me, or be patient with customers, or share what I have with the poor--no problem; it's part of the job of a disciple. If someone I know is in pain, I'm there to support them. Too tired to go to church after work on a holy day? Just taking care of business.

So how do we get the strength and self-control to roll with the punches? Paul reminds us in the second reading to stir the gifts of the Spirit into flame. If you take time to pray every day, if you look for God in other people, if you see difficulties as your share of the cross--you'll find those gifts of faith, power, love, and self-control beginning to grow stronger inside. We can trust that this is more than just wishful thinking by going to the first reading. When the prophet cries out for help with the misery and violence in the world, he hears God's promise that the vision (of hope for deliverance) will be fulfilled even if it seems to be delayed. We too hear that promise when we start to get discouraged, for God's promise "will not disappoint" (Habakkuk 2:3).

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Practice What You Preach

Preach always; if necessary, use words.

—Attributed to St. Francis of Assisi

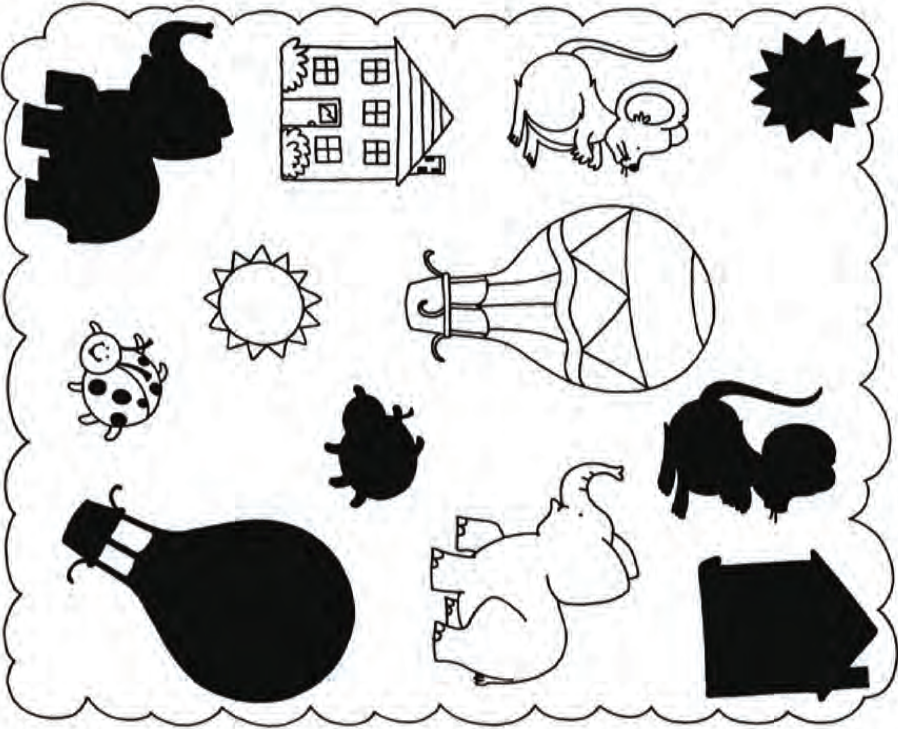
Well Read?

When the day of judgment comes, we shall not be asked what we have read, but what we have done.

—Thomas à Kempis

God's Word for Children

Jesus told his apostles
if they had faith the size of something small (a mustard seed)
they could move something big (a mulberry tree).
Match these small and big things to their shadows.



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Twenty-seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Do you know that God doesn't give us a cowardly spirit?
Find what the Bible says we are given instead (2 Timothy 1:7).
Look at the letter below each blank.
Then locate it in the alphabet and move to the right (+) or
left (-) according to the number shown.
The first letter has been written in.

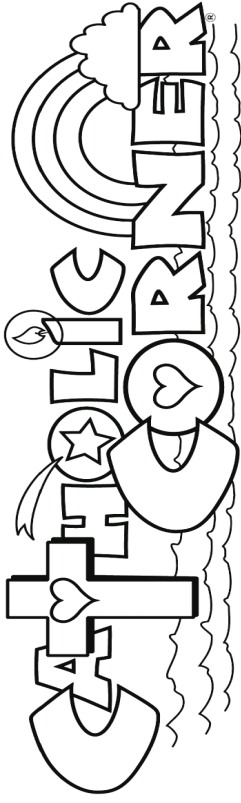
A B C D E F G H I J K L M
N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

P M+3 Q-2 V+1 J-5 N+4

P-4 J+5 W-1 A+4

Z-7 C+2 G+5 J-4 B+1 K+4 V-8 R+2 X-6 M+2 M-1





OUR LADY OF THE ROSARY

On October 7 we remember Our Lady of the Rosary.

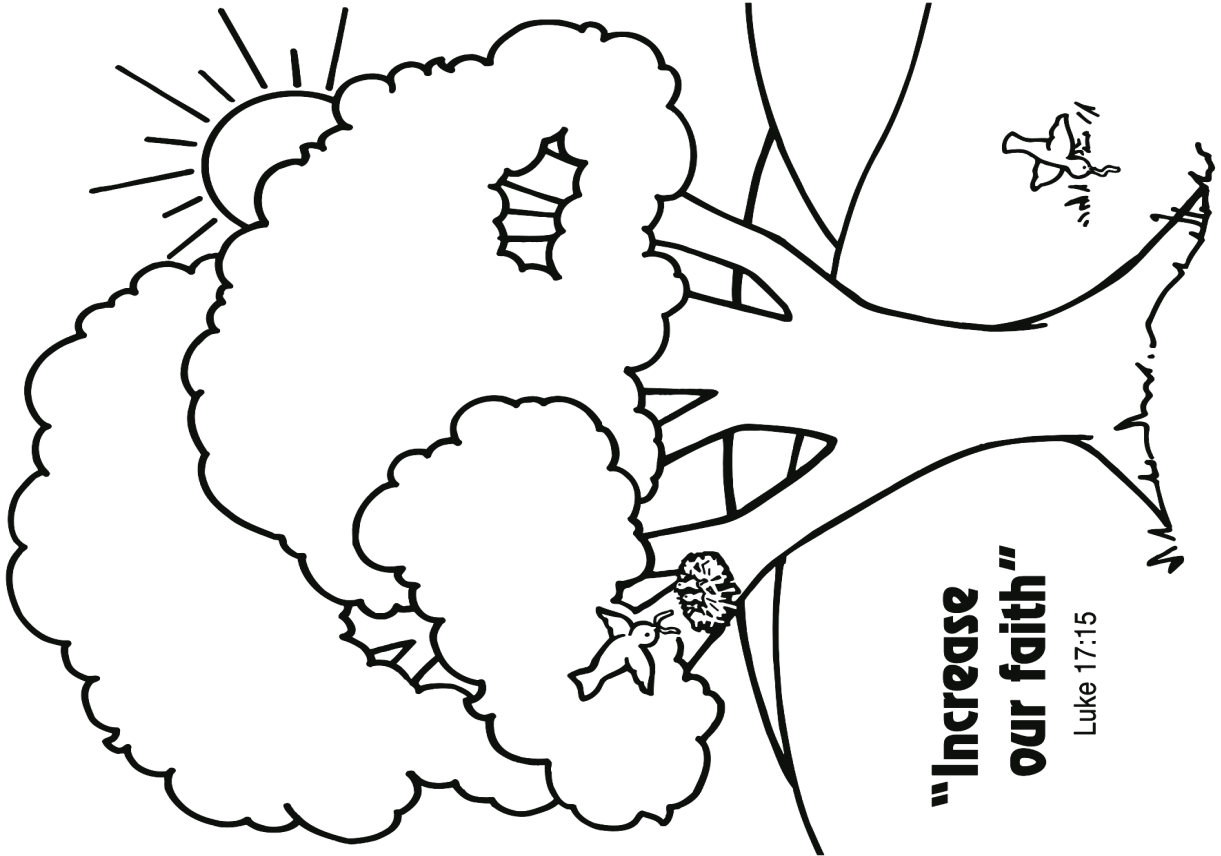
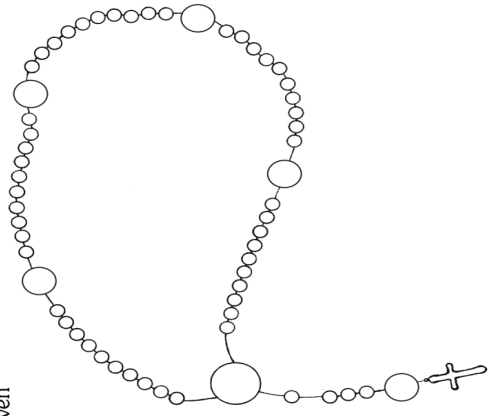
In the ninth century Irish monks would chant the 150 psalms of the Bible as part of their prayer. People who lived nearby and heard this beautiful devotion wanted to pray as the monks did. But many people could not read, and it was difficult to memorize the psalms without written copies, so they were encouraged to recite 150 prayers. Very often they prayed the Our Father 150 times.

With such a large number of prayers, people needed a way to keep count of how many they said. They began by putting 150 small pebbles into a container. Each time they said a prayer they moved a pebble from one container to another. Eventually they tied fifty knots in a thin rope and counted it three times to add up to 150 prayers. Finally they settled on using a string connecting small pieces of wood or beads in groups of ten.

Throughout Europe at that time many people recited a prayer known as the Angelic Salutation. This prayer, the angel's greeting to Mary, is what we know today as the Hail Mary. While people prayed they meditated on the life of Jesus and Mary. These meditations were referred to as *rosaria*, a word referring to roses or rose gardens. Appropriately, this collection of prayers was compared to a bouquet of roses given to Mary.

Our rosary today is composed of five groups of ten beads called decades. Each decade is prayed by saying the Our Father, then ten Hail Mary, one on each bead. We also pray the Glory Be after the tenth bead of the decade. The rosary has a long and beautiful history of people creating a special way to pray and think about Jesus and Mary.

During October, the month dedicated to the rosary, gather with your family to pray the rosary together. It is a beautiful way to honor Mary and unite your family. On this rosary color the large Our Father beads blue. Color each Hail Mary bead red, the color of roses.



**"Increase
our faith"**

Luke 17:15



TWENTY-SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

October 2, 2022

“If you have faith the size of a mustard seed,
you would say to this mulberry tree,
'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you.”

Luke 17:6

PATIENCE

We live in a society of instant gratification. We download and stream and binge-watch at our convenience; we use drive-throughs or have our food and groceries delivered. Wonderful things are indeed coming, but we must learn patience and humility! The Lord encourages Habakkuk to quit being impatient and wait for the vision to mature. Anyone who has started a fire knows how patient you must be to, as Paul admonishes, “Stir into flame the gift of God you have,” and to guard it well. Even in their good zeal, Jesus slows down the apostles. He equates faith to a mustard seed and tells them to settle down. As it takes that little seed many years to become a great tree, the Apostles and disciples must spend their time in service and grow in learning and love, and faith will come with it.

LESS IS MORE

The last few weeks, we have seen Jesus speaking in parables that were long and complex, and sometimes it was difficult to find the point of his message. But today he speaks simply to the Apostles and gives them a graphic image that is very easy to grasp. Think of how many pictures you have seen with an open hand holding mustard seeds, or the image of the seeds and the grown tree. The thing is, those photos are worth a thousand words. One could call it the “elevator pitch” on faith. Jesus provides his followers with a touchstone to hold onto, a spiritual roadmap as it were. But along with that beloved parable is a more difficult message.

REMEMBER WHO YOU ARE

At some point, Jesus must just get exasperated with these folks. The Apostles and disciples have been following him for how long now? And they still don't understand. The kingdom of God is not about how great you are on earth, or how much faith you have. There is much work to be done. He reminds them that they are still the folks who are going to be cooking dinner when they come home in the evening. They are the servants. Their work continues until the kitchen is clean! Similarly, it is not enough for us to simply show up to church on Sunday morning. We must be servants in our daily lives. On my computer screen is a yellow sticky note that says “If serving is below you, then leadership is above you.” Right now, “Servant Leadership” is a big buzzword phrase bordering on overuse, but there is a lot of truth to it. Some of the ways we may lead our families, our workgroups, our faith groups include: listening to others, showing empathy, healing yourself through work-life balance, developing your self-awareness, and being a good steward. Wrap it any way you want, it is all about being a good Christian. Have faith. Serve others. Watch it grow!

TODAY'S READINGS

Habakkuk 1:2-3; 2:2-4
Psalm 95:1-2, 6-7, 8-9
2 Timothy 1:6-8, 13-14
Luke 17:5-10

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