



Daily Devotionals – February 16, 2025

Called Crazy for Christ

Day 1: Small Beginnings, Big Purpose

Scripture: *Mark 4:30-31 – “Again He said, ‘What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth.’”*

Reflection:

God’s greatest works often start with something small. The Kingdom of God does not begin with grand displays of power, but with small acts of faith, unseen moments of kindness, and simple obedience. Like a mustard seed, faith doesn’t have to be big to be effective—it just has to be planted and nurtured.

Story:

Emily had always dreamed of making a difference in the world, but she often felt too small, too ordinary. She worked as a teacher in a struggling neighborhood and wondered if her efforts truly mattered. One day, she noticed a quiet boy, Daniel, who often sat alone. Instead of brushing it off, she took the time to sit with him, ask how his day was, and encourage him. Years later, she received a letter from Daniel, now an adult. He wrote, “Your kindness changed my life. You were the first person who believed in me.” Emily realized that even the smallest act of faithfulness can grow into something life-changing.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You are the God of small beginnings and mighty works. Sometimes I feel insignificant, like my faith is too small or my efforts don’t matter. But You remind me that in Your hands, even the tiniest mustard seed can grow into something beyond what I can imagine. Lord, plant in me a faith that trusts You, no matter how small my steps may seem. Help me to take the first step, to trust that You will water the seeds I plant, and to believe that what I do for You is never wasted. Strengthen me when I feel discouraged, and remind me that You are always working, even when I can’t see it. Use my life to bring glory to You, one small act of faith at a time. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 2: Faith Requires Planting

Scripture: *Mark 4:31 – “Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants.”*

Reflection:

A mustard seed, no matter how small, will not grow unless it is planted. Likewise, faith that is not exercised remains dormant. God calls us to trust Him enough to step out in faith, even when we don't see immediate results. Growth takes time, but planting is the first step.

Story:

James had always been hesitant to pray in front of others. He feared saying the wrong words or looking foolish. But one day, at his Bible study, a friend asked if someone would close in prayer. James hesitated but finally whispered, “I’ll do it.” His prayer was simple, just a few heartfelt sentences, but afterward, a friend told him, “That was exactly what I needed to hear.” James realized that stepping out in faith—even in small ways—allows God to work through us.

Prayer:

Lord, You have given me a seed of faith, and I know that it must be planted for it to grow. Too often, I hesitate—I hold back, afraid of failing, afraid of what others will think, afraid of stepping out of my comfort zone. But today, I surrender my fear to You. Give me the courage to plant seeds of love, hope, and truth in my life and in the lives of those around me. Help me to trust that even the smallest act of obedience can lead to something much greater in Your Kingdom. When I feel impatient, remind me that growth takes time, and when I feel weak, remind me that You are my strength. Thank You for being faithful to grow what I offer You. Let my life be rich soil where Your love can flourish. In Jesus’ name, Amen.

Day 3: Growth Takes Time

Scripture: *Mark 4:32 – “Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants.”*

Reflection:

Faith does not grow overnight. Just as a seed takes time to become a tree, our spiritual growth is a process. We may not always see immediate results, but God is at work beneath the surface.

Story:

Lena loved gardening, but her biggest struggle was patience. She would plant a seed, water it for a few days, and then check every morning, disappointed when she saw no change. One day, her grandmother told her, “Just because you don’t see the roots doesn’t mean it’s not growing.” Months later, a small sprout emerged, and eventually, a thriving plant. Lena realized that faith works the same way—just because we don’t see results immediately doesn’t mean God isn’t working.

Prayer:

Father God, I confess that I often want instant results. I want my faith to be strong right away, my prayers to be answered quickly, and my struggles to disappear immediately. But You teach me that faith is a journey, not a race. Like a mustard seed, my faith needs time to grow, and I need to trust the process. Help me to be patient with myself and with others, knowing that You are always working even when I don't see it. Teach me to rest in the assurance that You are in control, nurturing my faith and shaping my heart. Give me the perseverance to keep trusting, keep praying, and keep growing in Your love. Let me never give up on what You are doing in me. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 4: A Place for Others

Scripture: *Mark 4:32 – “With such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade.”*

Reflection:

The mustard tree not only grows but provides shelter for birds. Faith is not just for personal growth—it is meant to bless others. When our faith grows, we create a place where others can find rest, encouragement, and hope.

Story:

Martha had been part of her church for years, but she never thought of herself as a leader. One Sunday, she noticed a new woman sitting alone. Instead of waiting for someone else to greet her, Martha walked over, introduced herself, and invited her to lunch. That simple act of kindness led to a lasting friendship and encouraged the woman to stay in the church. Later, she told Martha, “You made me feel like I belonged.”

Prayer:

Lord Jesus, You call me not only to grow in my faith but to be a shelter for others. Just as the mustard tree provides shade and a resting place, You want me to be a source of love, encouragement, and kindness in a world that often feels harsh and unwelcoming. Help me to see those around me who are in need of comfort, friendship, and hope. Open my eyes to the lonely, the hurting, and the forgotten, and give me the heart to reach out to them. Let my faith not be just for myself, but a reflection of Your love that draws others closer to You. Lord, use me to provide a place of peace for someone today. Thank You for being my shelter and my refuge, and may I extend that same love to others. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 5: God's Kingdom is Unstoppable

Scripture: *Mark 4:32 – “Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants.”*

Reflection:

No one can stop the growth of God's Kingdom. What started with Jesus and a few disciples has now spread across the world. His message continues to grow in unexpected places, touching lives in ways we cannot imagine.

Story:

In a small village where Christianity was forbidden, a man named Tariq received a Bible from a friend. He read it in secret, and over time, his heart changed. Slowly, he shared what he learned with his family. Decades later, his small act of faith had led to hundreds of believers in his village. What seemed like an impossible situation became a testimony to God's unstoppable Kingdom.

Prayer:

Almighty God, You are building something far greater than I can see. Your Kingdom is growing in places I may never visit, through people I may never meet, in ways I may never understand. Thank You for allowing me to be a part of this great work! Sometimes, I get discouraged when I don't see change happening right away, but You remind me that nothing can stop Your plans. No matter what happens in the world, no matter what obstacles come my way, I know that Your Kingdom will stand forever. Help me to walk in faith and confidence, knowing that my efforts for You are never in vain. Use me to spread Your love and truth wherever I go, and may I trust that even my smallest actions are contributing to something greater. In Jesus' mighty name, Amen.

Day 6: Do Not Despise Small Beginnings

Scripture: *Zechariah 4:10 – “Do not despise these small beginnings, for the Lord rejoices to see the work begin.”*

Reflection:

Sometimes we want instant results, but God delights in beginnings. What seems insignificant today can grow into something life-changing tomorrow.

Story:

Michael started a small prayer group at work. At first, only two people joined. He was discouraged, but he kept inviting others. Over time, the group grew, and years later, it became a thriving ministry. What started as a small act of faith turned into something powerful.

Prayer:

Heavenly Father, You take delight in small beginnings, and yet I often overlook them. I sometimes want to see big results before I even start, and I get discouraged when progress

feels slow. But today, I choose to trust You. I choose to believe that no act of faith, no moment of kindness, no step of obedience is too small for You to use. Help me not to measure success by what I see but by Your promises. Let me be faithful in the little things, knowing that You are at work even when I cannot see the full picture. Teach me to celebrate small victories and trust in the process of growth. Thank You for rejoicing over my first steps, for walking with me on this journey, and for growing my faith in ways I never expected. I surrender my impatience to You and embrace the beauty of Your timing. In Jesus' name, Amen.

Day 7: Be a Sower of Faith

Scripture: *Galatians 6:9 – “Let us not grow weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest if we do not give up.”*

Reflection:

God calls us to keep planting seeds of faith, kindness, and love. Even when we don't see results immediately, we trust that He is working. Just as a farmer does not see the harvest the day after planting, we must trust that God will bring growth in His perfect time. Our role is to **keep sowing**, whether through encouragement, service, or simply showing love to those around us.

Story:

David was a youth pastor who often felt discouraged. He would pour time into mentoring teenagers, only to see some drift away from their faith. One day, after many years, he received a message from a former student, Jake, who had struggled with addiction but had finally found his way back to Christ. “Pastor David, I know I wasn't always listening, but your words stuck with me. You planted a seed that I finally let grow.” David realized that no effort for God is wasted. Even when we don't see immediate results, **God is at work beneath the surface**.

Prayer:

Lord, help me to be a faithful sower of Your Kingdom. Even when I feel discouraged, remind me that You are working in ways I cannot see. Give me strength to keep loving, keep serving, and keep trusting in Your promises. Let the seeds I plant today bring a harvest for Your glory. May my words, actions, and prayers reflect Your love and invite others to know You. I trust that, in Your perfect time, the seeds I sow will grow into something greater than I can imagine. In Jesus' name, Amen.