

Mustard Seed Miracle

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Office Rodney Ellis, Restoration Academy graduate.

When Jesus told His disciples and the crowds that the kingdom of God was like a mustard seed, it must have been an underwhelming and discouraging metaphor (Matt. 13:31-32). If those people were anything like me, I'm sure that they were expecting Jesus to say that the kingdom would be like a typhoon or an earthquake - something with power and significance. He went on to state that a mustard seed when it is full grown becomes the largest plant in the garden. The smallest of seeds morphs into something strong and spectacular!

Ten years ago there was a student of mine named Rodney. Rodney was a hard student to teach. He was smart, but he was a mocker. He and his classmates nearly drove me into handing in my resignation at Christmas break. On his last day of class, right before he graduated, he tossed his books and papers into the air in a final act of defiance. When he left, I concluded that he would get gobbled up by the streets because I didn't see a single spark of hope for him. Amazingly three months ago I got to hear Rodney speak to

a group of kids from my urban community. He shared one of the most articulate and heartfelt Gospel messages that I had heard in a very long time. I sat there with my jaw wide open, shocked at the mustard tree that was standing before me. I was humbled when I realized that my own doubt and cynicism had drowned out the reality that God could do a miraculous work in anyone.

Weeks later I got to sit down with Rodney and I asked him to share with me how the Lord was able to grip his heart. I expected him to share about a traumatic life experience but instead he talked about his praying mother who always directed his attention into the Scriptures. He talked about some of the different teachers and mentors who sowed into his life as well. Every contribution to his life was really just a mustard seed - a seemingly insignificant gesture of kindness, love, wisdom and grace. His testimony started to reinforce in my own mind and heart the reality of this great mustard truth - that the smallest actions of kingdom work can and do produce great and marvelous things!