

Mark 4:31-32

It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.

One of my favorite fruits is oranges, just the sweet juiciness of an orange is awesome. Or what about an orange sickle, you know, part orange and part vanilla ice cream, the best. Well, I love oranges so much that I decided to buy some apple seeds and plant them, which I did, and for several years I would water them until they started to sprout, then I continued to tend to them, pulling out any weeds from around them, watering and fertilizing them until they grew into a tree, and it still took several years for fruit to grow.

Then it finally happened, I saw fruit on the tree and to my surprise, the fruit ended up being apples. I'll tell you, I was really mad, so much so that I went back to the nurse where I got the seeds from and gave them a piece of my mind. They apologized right and left, but apologies won't get me my oranges. I even showed them the package that I still had of the apple seeds that I bought from them, and I couldn't believe it, they laughed at me and told me that you can't grow oranges from apple seeds.

Boy was I mad, I told them that I had faith in the seeds they sold me that they would produce oranges, not apples, because I didn't want apples, I wanted oranges, and I paid good money for those apple seeds and all the fertilizers and plant food I bought from them so that I could have oranges.

Okay, that was all a made-up story, but I told it to help us to realize that it's not always a matter of your faith or how much faith you have, but rather what your faith is in. Like my story, I had faith in those apple seeds that they would grow oranges. But my faith was in the wrong seeds, or things. Yet, how much more would my faith have increased if I actually bought orange seeds and planted them having faith that they would grow into a tree and produce oranges. That would be a solid faith, because orange seeds grow orange trees that produce oranges.

Didn't Jesus give us the same example (sort of) in His parable: *“It is like a mustard seed which, when it is sown on the ground, is smaller than all the seeds on earth; but when it is sown, it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs, and shoots out large branches, so that the birds of the air may nest under its shade.”*

Jesus never said that if you sow or plant mustard seeds you will have a crop of wheat, but rather, *“it grows up and becomes greater than all herbs”*, meaning it will grow into a mustard seed plant.

And doesn't the bible also teach us to have faith in God?

† **Mark 11:22** *So Jesus answered and said to them, “**Have faith in God.**”*

Yet how often do we put our faith in what’s in our bank account, or our jobs, or getting that loan, or a friend to come through for us. But faith in God, that’s a different story, because unfortunately people put their faith in God as a last resort, not a means to everyday life.

Has your faith decreased lately? Maybe it’s because you have been putting your faith in the things you want from God, instead of putting your faith in God who will supply all your need (not greed or wants)?

† **Philippians 4:19** *And my God shall supply all your need according to His riches in glory by Christ Jesus.*

Have you ever noticed that we quote that verse incorrectly, because we say that God will supply all your needs (plural), but that’s not what it says, it says that “**God shall supply all your need,**” (singular). Sure, we all have needs here on this earth, but the reality is if we had all those needs met, but didn’t have Jesus, they would mean nothing in the end, because our greatest need is Jesus as our Lord and Savior. And our faith is in Him (singular), not in all the stuff (plural) that we do for Him.

So once again, if your faith is failing, maybe the problem is in what you are putting your faith in, instead of Who you are putting your faith in.

† **James 1:10** *but the rich in his humiliation, because as a flower of the field he will pass away.*

† **2 Peter 3:10-13** *But the day of the Lord will come as a thief in the night, in which the heavens will pass away with a great noise, and the elements will melt with fervent heat; both the earth and the works that are in it will be burned up. Therefore, since all these things will be dissolved, what manner of persons ought you to be in holy conduct and godliness, looking for and hastening the coming of the day of God, because of which the heavens will be dissolved, being on fire, and the elements will melt with fervent heat? Nevertheless we, according to His promise, look for new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.*

† **Luke 21:33** ***Heaven and earth will pass away, but My words will by no means pass away.***