

Mustard Seed Moments

How many of us like to cook or prepare food? What is your favorite thing to cook and/or bake? Do you follow a recipe? Take a moment and think about it. Now, according to your comfort level, please turn and share what you like cook/prepare.

I recall an episode of Everybody Loves Raymond where Marie agrees to teach Debra how to prepare the favorite meatballs. She brought over all of her spices and had the recipe to give to Debra. However, she set Debra up to fail as she replaced the “basil” (that is what the label said”) when it was really tarragon.

You wouldn’t think that one little ingredient would change something but it certainly did with those meatballs. Now, how do we get from this to today’s gospel? Jesus compares the beginning of faith to one little mustard seed. If you haven’t seen a mustard seed, they are tiny. But this tiny mustard seed can grow into a beautiful bush or tree.

Often times, we think that we don’t make a difference in how we live our lives or how we can share our faith. Other times we wonder what impact we can have on people around us—even complete

strangers. This can be one of our “mustard seed moments.” We don’t know the impact we can have on another person until we have dropped or planted that seed.

What does this look like for us? It can be the simple things that we have discussed in the past. Have we invited someone to church? Did you let someone pass in front of you on I-91 or the turnpike? Maybe you let someone with one or two items in their basket go ahead of you at Big Y or Stop n Shop. You may have smiled at a clerk in a store or simply said, “Thank you.” Our little mustard seed actions can go a long way to spread happiness as well as to spread the faith.

You wouldn’t think that hosting a food truck from the Food Pantry would be a big deal, but we reached out to hundreds of people this way. The Thrift Shops of both churches minister to people by helping them out, having conversations, or even giving things away. Giving some money to someone on a corner and offering a smile goes a long way for those folks who may face unkind words or gestures. We don’t know what they go through or what life has brought to them. Jesus told us to help them, with out qualifications.

My advice for all of us gathered today or, if you're reading this online, is to be that mustard seed to others. Maybe this tiny mustard seed of a sermon will serve as motivation. Allow others to be that tiny mustard seed for us. Let us see if we can spread that love and our faith so that it grows exponentially. Amen!