

In Matthew 17:20, Jesus tells us “If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, ‘Move from here to there,’ and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.” (NIV).

Have you ever seen a mustard seed? It’s about the same size as a sesame seed on a hamburger bun. Our Lord makes it sound so easy, doesn’t he? I like to believe I have at least that much faith, because I know where my help comes from. I believe God is the Creator of the universe, and I believe he sent his only son, who was without sin, to be the sacrificial lamb on my behalf, to make atonement for my sins.

But as I was pondering this ‘mustard seed-sized faith’, I remembered how powerful the seeds of doubt can be. Really, it only takes one little seed of doubt to send me spiraling downward, into a full-fledged pity party. I believe the enemy has acres and acres of these seeds, tossing them at us just for a laugh. Even I am amazed at how one day I can be walking on clouds, because my faith seems indestructible. Then, with just one word, I find myself triggered and in complete despair.

I don’t believe I have ever lost faith in God’s love for me, or that the gospel message isn’t the absolute truth. But those seeds of doubt always cause me to doubt myself, and remind me of how unworthy I think I am. For as long as I can remember, I have struggled with the need to seek approval from others. I would bend over backwards trying to prove my worthiness, while still believing I would never measure up.

If you can identify with anything I’ve just said, I have really good news for you. The fact is none of us are worthy. The Bible says we are all like filthy rags, and basically no better than the dirt under our feet. There is only One who is worthy; spotless and blameless. And his name is Jesus Christ.

Did you know that because you are unworthy, that’s exactly why Jesus went to the cross? He was the sacrificial lamb for mankind, and just by having a seed-sized faith that he did this for you, his shed blood covers you in cleanliness and righteousness. God had to look away from Jesus while he was up on the cross, because it was at that moment he took on the sins of the world. God is pure and holy, and God is love. It isn’t until we ask Jesus to be the Lord of our lives, and we are covered by his precious blood, that God can look upon us. And when he does, he sees someone who is beautiful, redeemed, and yes, worthy.

The key is to remember that there is nothing we can do to become worthy. Our redemption fully depends on what Jesus did for us and who he is. All we are required to have is seed-sized faith.

Blessings,

Lisa Jo