To be the church and go out we need to keep looking up and growing inward. Trust in the Lord.

TODAY We are looking at the idea that it doesn’t take big things all the time to make a difference. God often uses small things in His Kingdom to make a big impact.

Our human nature will challenge us to our selfishness and little faith and despise the small things.

- We have come to believe that bigger is always better.
- We tend to recognize, respect, and remember those things in life that are big, while we tend to give little thought to the small things.
- Our secular world is mandated by the “Big I little you syndrome.”
- The Devil loves to use this false theology against us as Christians by saying things to us like:
  - You are not good enough
  - You are not significant
  - You don’t have enough money
  - You don’t have enough talent
  - You just aren’t important enough to be used by God in a meaningful way.
  - When it comes to spiritual matters bigger is not always better
- God does not look at the outward appearance but God looks at the heart.

TEXT - This brings us to our text this morning found in the book of Luke chapter 13.

1. One was the Parable of the Mustard Seed
2. The second one was the parable of the Leaven

Jesus took the opportunity to teach the necessity of repentance.

This central section of Luke is filled with the teachings of Jesus. They were given in response to real life situations. This tells me something of the teachings of Jesus. They are PRACTICAL every day grass roots that apply to real life where you live and breathe.
1. The Kingdom in like a Mustard Seed.

*Therefore He was saying, "What is the kingdom of God like, and to what shall I compare it? 19 It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw into his own garden; and it grew and became a tree; and the birds of the air nested in its branches." (Luke 13:18-19).*

I think Jesus was probably looking around and saying, "Um, let me see, and he saw a mustard bush and said, “ It is like a mustard seed, which a man took and put in his garden; and it grew and became a large tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.”

Notice the actions of the man in this parable. He merely threw the seed and it landed in his garden. In this first example Jesus said, God’s working is like a mustard seed, which a man took and threw in his garden, it grew and became a tree, and the birds of the air perched in its branches.

The mustard seed is very, very small like coffee grounds.

20 And again He said, "To what shall I liken the kingdom of God? The Kingdom is like Leaven.

maybe Jesus thought they aren’t getting this so I have to give them another illustration.

Again, He used something they were used to seeing, baking bread! Because of the lack of preservatives they had to bake bread every day when Jesus was here upon the earth.

When they would bake bread today they would take a little bit of the dough and put it back to put in the dough the next day. They would take that small lump of dough and knead it into the new mixture and that little bit of dough would influence the entire batch of dough.

Even though the original ball of yeast was small, it would have a huge influence. What was Jesus teaching, it wasn’t about horticulture or baking. He was revealing a kingdom truth and it was this:

“When it comes to spiritual things, God uses small things to do BIG stuff.”

- When God wanted to create a new nation to call His own, He didn’t use a large established family, instead he Abraham and Sara who appeared too old to have children.
- When God wanted to lead his people out of slavery in Egypt, He used Moses rejected by his own people, felt like he was a failure and had spent 40 years keeping sheep.
- When God decided to send a rain at the end of the drought in the days of Elijah, he used a cloud about the size of a man’s hand to declare the sound of abundance of rain.
- When Jesus wanted to feed 5,000 people, he used a small boy’s small lunch to do it.
- When Jesus was watching people give, he wasn’t impressed by the bid donors but a widow’s penny.
When God came to earth as a human He didn’t choose a rich and famous family to be a part, He came as a baby born in a barn to a poor family living in Nazareth.

“When it comes to spiritual things, God uses small things to do BIG stuff.” What we might see as too small insignificant to matter, God sees as something He wants to use to accomplish His purpose. His purpose is to save lives. It is all about God and His impossible power to make all things possible. Then we can look to Him as powerful God and give him worship honor and praise.

WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND WHAT MINISTRY IS

It’s about God’s kingdom. It is God’s people. It is us -- the church.

What we do during the week to make a positive difference in others’ lives is ministry. “Ministry is involved in small things, little acts, small gestures, in everyday service of Living for Jesus.” Kingdom thinking

Kingdom thinking is seeing things from God’s perspective.

Scripture: Matthew 25:23

His lord said to him, ‘Well done, good and faithful servant; you have been faithful over a few things, I will make you ruler over many things. Enter into the joy of your lord. NKJV

Story of a pastor who handed his friend business style card. He accepted the card and in a glance read four words

DRINK --- STEAL --- SWEAR --- LIE

His friend was compelled to ask, “What do these four words mean?

He was forthright, “I’m glad you asked. This is my axiom I live by every day.

They friend thought “What kind of minister of the Gospel of Jesus Christ is this?” That’s when the pastor said, “Allow me to explain.”

1. DRINK: Drink from the everlasting cup of what Jesus did for you and me on the Cross.

2. STEAL: Steal away a few moments whenever you can to witness to another about what Jesus has done for you.

3. SWEAR: Swear that you accept the covenant of relationship that the Lord has placed before you.

4 Lie: When you lie down at night be sure you have forgiven everyone who has wronged you.

Kingdom thinking is Not talking about only knowledge. It is responding to God Grace in His love. It is giving - time, talents, and resources! It is the small things of witnessing and praying for others in need! It is responding with love rather than cursing.

Listen, as Christians, we believers are not a poor little group of people tying a knot on the end of the rope dangling and holding on until Jesus comes to take us all away from this tribulation. We are here...
to grow, expand, and advance the kingdom of God. While you do that, rest in its branches, make your homes in it, raise your children in it, and find shelter in its branches. The kingdom is growing.

Many times in doing the small things that makes the greatest impact on someone’s life. And that is no small thing.

Amen!