

Resurrection Faith
Luke 17:6

CHRIST HAS RISEN! HE HAS RISEN INDEED, ALLELUIA!!! We made it! Easter has arrived! Now you can tell the world that Jesus was more than a human who walked the earth showing people the power of God's love. You can spread the news that you have seen the Holiness of Jesus as he stood on the mountain top conversing with Moses and Elijah. You can tell the story of what happened when your spirit collided with God's Holy Spirit as you stood at the foot of the cross and paid your respects to Jesus. Your relationship with Christ is personal but, there is no longer a need to keep Christ a secret, private, and locked in the church. Through Christ's death and resurrection, God has set God's self free. You believe this, right? You have faith that Christ is alive in you and calling you to action, right?

In our Christian world, Resurrection Sunday is when we celebrate God didn't stay dead. We have faith in this resurrection to give us, also, a fresh start with God. I believe faith in the resurrection of Jesus gives you, and me, permission to rethink how we have been living as faithful followers of God. It, also, us license to let go of how we have always done things and begin to dream new visions for ministry. Are you skeptical? Do you believe there is enough faith in the world for your dreams to come true?

My answer is **YES**. Luke 17:6 tells us that faith the size of a mustard seed is all it takes to be a faithful, devoted, and committed follower of Christ, who believes that with God all is possible. Resurrection faith is all about what can happen when you work with God. There will still be doubts, fears, and skepticism; but, resurrection faith can transform those doubts into possibilities. It all begins with you and how you put your faith into action.

When you look at the size of a mustard seed, it is hard to imagine how this tiny bit of faith in God grows into abundance. The key is to not let this seed, like your faith, sit idle. Resurrection faith means we are to die to self and live again **with** God. This faith is meant to be active and risky as you live your belief that all is possible with God. A step into resurrection faith also means either giving up or transforming the old tried and true to dream dreams to make new visions become a reality. If all is possible with God, what do you have to lose in at least giving something new a try.

Christ repeatedly told the Disciples to have faith that once he died, he would rise again. Their faith faltered until they witnessed for themselves Jesus standing before them in the flesh with holes in his hands and feet. Some doubted until they could actually touch Jesus' wounds. Even then, their small faith pulled them to take a risk, reach out, and believe Christ was, and is, alive! What the disciples did was plant the mustard seed of

faith in their hearts which died in it's shell and sprouted as a plant ready to be nurtured by God. A seed is just a seed until it dies and is transformed into a sprout and grows into a plant that will produce more seeds. Now that you have witnessed the resurrection of Christ, it is time to become active faithful disciples. Let the hopes and dreams of what this church can be actually become realities when you believe and live that all is possible with God.

What does dreaming the impossible look like? I am so glad you asked. What I find exciting about our world are the people like the Wright brothers, the first astronauts, Steve Jobs, and Michael Slaughter who actively dreamed big. These entrepreneurs changed the world with their faith. They didn't allow doubts and fears to overcome their hopes and dreams. They had resurrection faith that they actively lived offering new opportunities to see the world differently. They never stopped believing the impossible could be possible. As resurrected people who have encountered God's Holy Spirit, we can dream big and know that all is possible with God. God has transformed you and is growing inside of you. Faith the size of this mustard seed is the beginning of your new life with God.

I have been saying all through Lent that once Easter arrives and we celebrate Christ's resurrection, that your ministry will begin new and fresh. I believe you and your next leader, Pastor Jan, has great things to do for God here in Denison, Crawford County, and the world. You are Disciples of Christ ready to rethink how you live as resurrected people. You will make mistakes, have doubts, and fears, but your faith and work with God will be the food you need to overcome the worldly distractions. Today is your new beginning. The world is waiting to see the changes God has made in you as you step out in faith. For others to believe and come to know God, they first need to see how God has made a difference in your life. Faith, like the church, is a verb. Both are actively focused on telling and showing that God is your strength and guide. You are no longer volunteers waiting to perform according to your schedules. I believe you are the faithful Disciples of Christ in the world. What do you believe?

Resurrection faith is what you believe. If you believe faith can uproot trees and plant them in the sea, then that's what can happen. If you believe nothing will change, then nothing will. Resurrection faith is about giving to God all the things that can and will go wrong in this new life with God, taking a risk, and trusting that all really is possible with God. At the sunrise service, we were reminded of the father whose son was demon

possessed and his prayer, “I believe, help my unbelief.” If you believe there is still life and ministry yet to do in this congregation, then your the blood, sweat, and tears of your walk with God will make it happen. No more excuses of what we can’t do. No more expecting others to do the work of the church. The time has come for you to put your faith in God and get your mind, body and soul active for Christ. What do you think, do you have resurrection faith? Amen.