

LOOKING TO SUNDAY®

Sunday, October 5, 2025

The Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

This email, entitled Looking to Sunday®, focuses on one or more of the scripture readings for the coming Sunday. It prepares readers to hear God's Word at Mass and it offers a point of reflection to consider in the days leading to Sunday. Looking to Sunday is written by Father Tom Iwanowski.

Looking to Sunday has been published for more than sixteen years.

MUSTARD SEED FAITH

"If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you would say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it would obey you."

This is what Jesus tells his apostles in Sunday's Gospel (Luke 17:5-10). His words seem to imply that the apostles were lacking in faith. If they had even a little faith, they would be able to uproot mulberry trees and toss them into the sea.

As there are no reports in the scriptures of flying trees, we might conclude the apostles were short of faith. The same thing might be said of us since we cannot miraculously uproot trees.

However, we can understand the words of Jesus in another way. Rather than pointing to a possible lack of faith, Jesus may be telling us that even a little faith, which he likens to a mustard seed, can produce marvelous results.

Jesus says something similar in Matthew's Gospel. He tells his apostles, "If you have faith the size of a mustard seed, you will say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you" (Matthew 17:20).

The faith, which is figuratively described as able to uproot mulberry trees and move mountains, comes from a relationship with Jesus Christ. He is the Son of God who reveals the meaning and purpose of our existence. He is the way, the truth, and the life. He is the one who saves us from sin and death and offers us eternal life. He is the one who empowers us with his Spirit so that we might continue his work in the world.

Jesus is telling us that even a small amount of faith in him can enable us to accomplish things that seem difficult and even impossible.

It was such faith that sent the apostles into the world to preach the Good News. Today, such faith enables Christians to give public witness to the Gospel despite social disapproval and persecution. It motivates believers to care for the poor, the sick, the immigrant, and the stranger.

Such faith leads people to realize that all they possess are gifts from a loving God. It enables people to recognize the presence of the Risen Lord in Word and Sacrament and in the Church. And such faith inspires people to make the love of God and neighbor their priority in life.

Each of us has faith, otherwise, we would not be part of the Church, and we would not be reading this reflection.

Jesus is challenging us to put the faith we have into action by letting our relationship with him direct our thoughts and actions.

No matter how little our faith, it can lead us to do things that will make God's kingdom shine more brightly in our world.

Jesus reminds us in another parable, "a mustard seed ... is the smallest of all the seeds, yet when full-grown it is the largest of plants" (Matthew 13:31-32). The more we put the faith we have into action, the more it will blossom and the more we will become the good and holy people God created us to be.

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