

July 7

7th Sunday after Pentecost

Theme: From very small beginnings God produces great results

Psalm 131

Haggai 2.1-9

1 Cor. 1.26–2.5

Mark 4.26-34

Good morning, beloved congregation. Today, we gather to reflect on a powerful theme: "From very small beginnings God produces great results." This theme resonates deeply with the human experience, as we often start our journeys from humble beginnings and, through faith and perseverance, witness the magnificent works of God in our lives. As we delve into today's scripture readings, let us open our hearts to the wisdom and encouragement that God provides.

1. Trust in God's Timing: Psalm 131

Psalm 131 is a short yet profound psalm that reflects the essence of humility and trust in God.

The psalmist writes: "My heart is not proud, Lord, my eyes are not haughty; I do not concern myself with great matters or things too wonderful for me. But I have calmed and quieted myself, I am like a weaned child with its mother; like a weaned child I am content. Israel, put your hope in the Lord both now and forevermore." This psalm teaches us the importance of trusting in God's timing and plan. It reminds us to approach life with humility, recognizing that our understanding is limited. Like a child who trusts in the care of a parent, we are called to trust in God's guidance, even when we cannot see the bigger picture. Small beginnings often require patience and faith, as we wait for God to reveal His greater plan.

2. The Promise of Future Glory: Haggai 2:1-9

In the book of Haggai, we see the Israelites facing the daunting task of rebuilding the temple. The new temple seemed insignificant compared to the former glory of Solomon's temple. Yet, through the prophet Haggai, God delivers a message of encouragement: "The glory of this present house will be greater than the glory of the former house, says the Lord Almighty. And in this place I will grant peace, declares the Lord Almighty." God assures the people that their efforts, though they may seem small and unimpressive, will lead to something far greater. This promise of future glory encourages us to persevere, even when our beginnings appear modest. God sees the potential in our efforts and promises that the results will surpass our expectations.

3. God Chooses the Humble: 1 Corinthians 1:26-2:5

The Apostle Paul addresses the church in Corinth, reminding them of their humble beginnings and the transformative power of God's call: "Brothers and sisters, think of what you were when you were called. Not many of you were wise by human standards; not many were influential; not many were of noble birth. But God chose the foolish things of the world to shame the wise; God chose the weak things of the world to shame the strong." Paul emphasizes that God often chooses the humble and the lowly to accomplish His purposes. This choice is not based on worldly standards of power or wisdom but on God's sovereign will. It is through our weaknesses and small beginnings that God's power is made manifest, bringing about great results that reflect His glory.

4. The Parable of the Mustard Seed: Mark 4:26-34

In the Gospel of Mark, Jesus shares the parable of the mustard seed to illustrate the Kingdom of God: "The kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade." This parable beautifully captures the essence of our theme. The mustard seed, though tiny, grows into a large plant that provides shelter and sustenance. Jesus teaches us that the Kingdom of God often starts in small, seemingly insignificant ways, but it grows and expands beyond our imagination. Our faith, no matter how small, has the potential to produce great results when nurtured and cultivated.

Conclusion

Beloved, as we reflect on these scriptures, we are reminded that God specializes in using small beginnings to achieve great results. Whether it is the quiet trust of a child, the promise of future glory, the calling of the humble, or the growth of a mustard seed, we see that God's ways often defy human expectations. Let us embrace our humble beginnings with faith and trust, knowing that God is at work in and through us to bring about His glorious purposes.

Prayer

Heavenly Father, we thank You for the profound lessons You have taught us through Your Word today. Help us to trust in Your timing and plan, even when our beginnings seem small and insignificant. Strengthen our faith, that we may persevere and witness the great results You have in store for us. Lord, remind us that Your power is made perfect in our weakness and that You can use even the smallest acts of faith to accomplish Your will. Comfort us, Lord, in times of doubt and uncertainty. Encourage us with the knowledge that You are always with us, guiding us and working through us. May our lives reflect Your glory and bring hope to those around us. We pray this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord and Savior. Amen.

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