

A BLESSING CAME FROM SOMETHING SO SMALL

When I cut the lawn for the first time this year, I accidentally ran over a cord of string left out from last fall that was hidden in some long grass. Naturally, there was a loud noise when I hit it, but everything seemed to be working fine with my lawnmower as I finished cutting the rest of my grass.

A week later, the blade suddenly came off from underneath shortly after I started cutting the grass for the second time. I searched all around the area to find the bolt and nut that held the blade in place but had no luck in finding them. I began to wonder if it had come off when I hit the cord of string a week earlier. I searched the section of the lawn where that had happened but found no signs of the missing pieces.

I began looking online to see which stores might carry a replacement blade for my model of lawnmower but could not find a match. I decided to go to Canadian Tire where I bought the lawnmower two years earlier to search its parts section. I enlisted the help of an employee in my search, but we had no luck. He suggested I try finding a suitable nut and bolt at a hardware store. I went to Home Hardware and a few other places, but these stores had nothing that matched the size I needed.

I then asked my neighbour who is a millwright if he might be able to find a suitable nut and bolt to affix the blade back onto the lawnmower. He looked through some he had at home, but none were suitable. He even went to Princess Auto to try, and they too had nothing in stock that would work.

When all of these options failed, I decided to call the manufacturer of the lawnmower to see if I could purchase the proper parts from them. The customer service representative was able to identify the part I needed but they had none in stock. I was informed it would be 6-8 weeks before they would have this nut and bolt in stock again. That would put me into mid-July before I could use this lawnmower again.

When I called, I did not expect what happened next. The representative said they would send me a brand-new lawnmower, at no cost, except for a \$13.00 charge for shipping. How could this cheap, frugal Presbyterian pastor refuse that deal? A few days later I received a new lawnmower valued at \$489.00

retail for the shipping cost of \$13.00. It was amazing to see how all of my focus on a tiny nut and bolt resulted in me being blessed with a brand-new lawnmower in the end.

This experience got me thinking about a time when Jesus asked the disciples to focus on something as small as a mustard seed. Jesus asked them to focus on a mustard seed when explaining why their efforts to heal a young boy had earlier been unsuccessful. Jesus explained to them in **Matthew 18:20**:

I tell you the truth, if you had faith even as small as a mustard seed, you could say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it would move. Nothing would be impossible."

The mustard seed was the smallest particle imaginable. Jesus used this small seed to teach the disciples that if they had shown even a small amount of faith by trusting in God's power in that moment, they would have been able to heal this boy and do other miracles too. Stories like this are meant for us to examine our faith to ensure we are trusting in God's power to produce results, rather than just relying on ourselves.

Sometimes when the obstacle in front of us appears to be the size of a mountain we discover the faith we thought we had, is not that large. When these moments occur, instead of focusing on the mountain in front of us, Jesus encourages us to focus on our mustard-seed-sized faith instead. If we take this small-sized faith and add to it a level of trust in God's power to act, Jesus tells us we will see blessings flow out of these challenges.

I am certainly a believer in Jesus' teaching here. Much of my focus last week was on a small nut and bolt I needed for my lawnmower. With a little bit of faith in God to help me with this situation, it turned into me being blessed with a brand-new lawnmower for just \$13.00. What a little mustard-seed-sized faith can do for us.

Keep safe and God bless,

Pastor Dean