

**THE BIG IDEA: Don't miss something big because something small leads to it.**The Take-Off

Apple, Hewlett-Packard, Amazon, Google, Walt Disney and Mattel all have something in common (besides being uber-successful!)...

They all started in garages.

So did Square and Tesla Motors.

Shoot, Phil Knight launched Nike from the trunk of his car!

Starting small doesn't always mean ending small.

The opposite is true, too. A big start doesn't guarantee a big ending - 10 startups that raised a combined 1.7 BILLION dollars from investors have already failed THIS YEAR.

We tend to equate big with big and small with small, but today we're going to see 2 parables that flip that kind of thinking on its head.

For starters, let's read **Luke 13:18-21**

Now, let's state the obvious: all of us can see that something small led to something bigger, but let's connect that back to the Lost+Found theme so we can understand why faith is so important in the rescue mission.

Pursuing the lost is a process, and it is often a process that is made up of small steps that don't always seem to add up to a whole lot of success.

Think about missionaries who spend decades in one place without seeing a single convert.

Pastors who serve tirelessly for years with very little apparent growth in their churches.

Parents who pour into their children only to see the child take the way of the prodigal instead of the promise.

All of us can relate to the need to entrust the small steps to a big God, and Jesus told these 2 parables not only to encourage us like the stories of Apple, Google and Disney encourage us, but also to show us 2 powerful promises that can help us see the big side of small as we continue to seek the lost so that they may be found.

So, here is promise #1...

**1. What seems INSIGNIFICANT will become INDISPENSABLE**

- a. The mustard seed was the smallest seed known at that time
- b. With one simple parable, Jesus stated something earth shattering to His listeners: nothing - and no one - is too small for the kingdom!
- c. No one was bending over to pick up a mustard seed, and Jesus was saying that even the insignificant things can grow to become indispensable
- d. That tree was indispensable to the birds!
- e. But this wasn't just about growing - it was about changing
- f. The promise wasn't that a small seed would become a much bigger seed!
- g. It was that the seed would become a tree.
- h. A small seed would become a big tree and others would benefit from it
- i. But it takes TIME, and so the kingdom of God requires PATIENCE and results in TOTAL TRANSFORMATION
- j. **2 Corinthians 3:16-18, esp. v. 18**
- k. We will be - and others will be - CHANGED by the gospel!
- l. So what if the changes seems small and insignificant?
- m. Give it time - the transformation IS coming!

**2. What seems INVISIBLE will become INESCAPABLE**

- a. The second parable is for all the chefs in the house!
- b. A little yeast would be placed into a batch of flour large enough to feed 100 people and eventually that little bit of yeast would spread throughout the entire batch
- c. Here's the thing, though.
- d. You couldn't see it working. You could only trust the process and see the result of the work.
- e. There is a takeover quality in the kingdom - a little becomes all over time, but because we can't see it, it's easy to want to short-circuit the process
- f. Remember: most overnight successes are over decade successes that didn't become visible until last night!

- g. It can seem like what we do to find the lost is invisible, but the promise of the yeast is that what we can't see IS WORKING and WILL WORK if we don't quit.
- h. A little yeast works through the entire batch and everyone can eat from it.
- i. It takes TRUST, and so the kingdom of God requires PERSEVERANCE and results in TOTAL IMPARTATION
- j. **1 Corinthians 13:9-10** / "but when..." - the when is guaranteed! The perfect (full grown, complete) is coming!
- k. We will be - and others will be - CONSUMED by the gospel!
- l. Will we see every change? No, but the promise of the yeast is that the invisible will become inescapable!
- m. **Psalms 139:7-12** / we can't escape the presence of God!
- n. Who HE is WILL work its way through us, but God is content to work in us first

### The Landing

There IS a big side of small, but only if we don't shy away from the small

Our Big Idea says it like this: **Don't miss something big because something small leads to it.**

So what if the small seem insignificant and invisible - our patience and perseverance WILL pay off BIG TIME in the end...

IF we don't quit.

The Legend of Cliff Young

[IMAGE / Cliff Young]

**"Let us not become weary in doing good, for at the proper time we will reap a harvest IF WE DO NOT GIVE UP." (Galatians 6:9)**

Don't let the discouragement of the small keep you from the discovery of the big.

Stay faithful to the mission in small, seemingly insignificant and invisible ways, and God WILL bring the harvest.

**Don't miss something big because something small leads to it.**

Let's pray.