

Slide 1



“Mustard plants 1” by Lucinda Naylor. Copyright © Lucinda Naylor. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.

Slide 2

Was Jesus Telling a Joke?

God's Kingdom like a mustard seed	God's Kingdom like a dandelion seed
-----------------------------------	-------------------------------------

Jesus also says we're yeast in bread, and salt in food. Small things can make a difference!

Slide used with Children's Sermon. The children were given a paper version to discuss the pictures. Discussed bottom line as an important point in Jesus' message. The theme for Art Camp later this summer will involve making a difference. We'll learn a song, "I Want My Life to Make a Difference." And that includes small children!

Slide 3

Walking with Jesus

- Being a First Century Galilean Jew: 700 years of the underside of other empires
- Waiting for God's Kingdom to come
- Lives that felt like a joke
- Lives that felt like being weeds in someone else's garden
- Jesus playing along with and acknowledging joke – turning it to hope

Being able to walk with Jesus through the lens of Mark's Gospel includes more than the obstacle of 2000 years difference in time and place and language. For us it also involves our social location as living in one of the wealthiest, most powerful nations in all of history. Jesus as a First century Jew had a very different social location.

Slide 4

Ched Myers: "Say to This Mountain"

- "In Mark's time, Judea was once again a tiny client-state being "fed by the streams flowing from" the imperial center of Rome (Ez. 31:4). And, within Palestine, Mark's community was a small, persecuted minority. What chance did followers of Jesus have against the power of the Judean Temple-state, much less against that of Rome?"



Quote from the book we use in our Wednesday morning bible study on the Gospels. See [http://girardianlectionary.net/year\\_b/proper\\_6b.htm](http://girardianlectionary.net/year_b/proper_6b.htm)

Slide 5

Ched Myers: "Say to This Mountain"

- The parable of the mustard seed proposes exactly such a mismatch: "All the trees of the field shall know that I bring low the high tree, I make high the low tree" (Ez. 17:24).
- In so doing he sows hope among them, insisting that the tall trees can be brought down and that the smallest of seeds *will* bear fruit of God's justice.

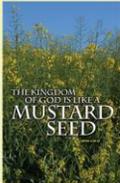


Quote concluded.

Slide 6

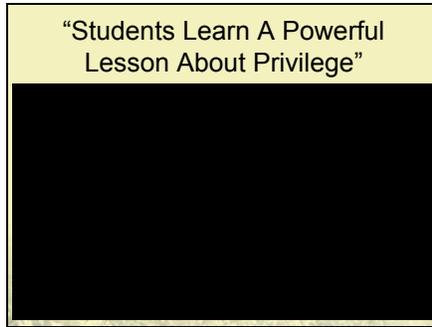
Walking with Jesus: Helping to Sow Seeds of Hope

- PoP trip to Guatemala in 2010 (Habitat trips)
- Youth workcamp trips
- Ranney Street house
- Next month: 12 youth and 5 adults from PoP joining 30,000+ for ELCA Youth Gathering in Detroit – a place beaten down by poverty and racism – feeling like weeds in someone else's garden



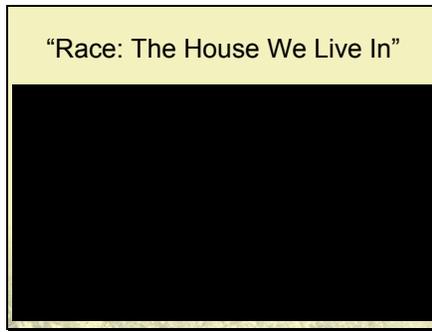
Reflecting on sowing seeds of hope in our modern ministries. When we undertake these ministries we are going to share from our wealth and power to help sow seeds of hope. But are we also there to learn their way of reading Mark's Good news about Jesus? To see it from the perspective of those whose lives feel like weeds in someone else's garden? Yet they retain hope through lies of compassion and solidarity?

Slide 7



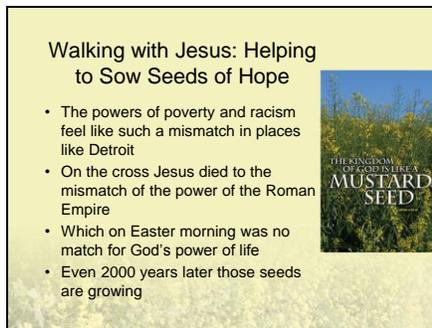
The following two videos are suggested in the ELCA preparation materials for going to the Youth Gathering this summer in Detroit. They are among the things our youth have discussed in their prep meetings. Embedded YouTube video that can be found at:  
<https://youtu.be/2KImvmuxzYE>

Slide 8



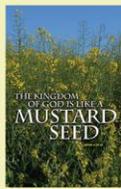
Embedded YouTube video that can be found at:  
[https://youtu.be/mW764dXEI\\_8](https://youtu.be/mW764dXEI_8)

Slide 9



Walking with Jesus: Helping to Sow Seeds of Hope

- The powers of poverty and racism feel like such a mismatch in places like Detroit
- On the cross Jesus died to the mismatch of the power of the Roman Empire
- Which on Easter morning was no match for God's power of life
- Even 2000 years later those seeds are growing



Megan, our Youth Minister, has done a wonderful job of engaging the youth in exploring these huge topics. But they are huge! At some point you break off and open yourself to try to experience it this summer and learn more.

Slide 10

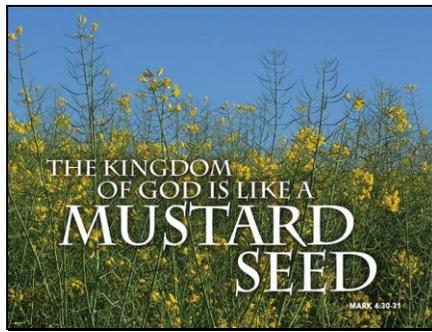
Walking with Jesus: Helping to Sow Seeds of Hope

- Even 2000 years later those seeds are growing
- As we open ourselves to walking with those whose lives feel like weeds in someone else's garden
- This summer at PoP
  - Ranney Street
  - Restore Ministries for Ex-offenders
  - Our youth going to Detroit!
- Stay tuned!



Restore Ministries is new – a project we are looking at after reading *The New Jim Crow* (by Michelle Alexander) on Tuesday nights. We are looking to team with Marcus Collins in his ministry of helping folks out of prison restore their lives.

Slide 11



“Mustard plants 1” by Lucinda Naylor. Copyright © Lucinda Naylor. All rights reserved. Used by permission of the artist.