

27th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Luke 17:5-10

'If you had faith.'

At that time: The Apostles said to the Lord, 'Increase our faith!' And the Lord said, 'If you had faith like a grain of mustard seed, you could say to this mulberry tree, "Be uprooted and planted in the sea", and it would obey you.

'Will any one of you who has a servant ploughing or keeping sheep say to him when he has come in from the field, "Come at once and recline at table"? Will he not rather say to him, "Prepare supper for me, and dress properly, and serve me while I eat and drink, and afterwards you will eat and drink"? Does he thank the servant because he did what was commanded? So you also, when you have done all that you were commanded, say, "We are unworthy servants; we have only done what was our duty."'

Reflection

In today's Gospel (Luke 17:5-10), the Apostles ask Jesus to increase their faith. Jesus replies that even faith as small as a mustard seed can accomplish great things. He also reminds them that serving others is not about seeking praise, but about fulfilling our duty with humility.

This message is at the heart of the Vincentian spirit, which includes not only St. Vincent de Paul but also Blessed Frederic Ozanam, St. Louise de Marillac, and Blessed Rosalie Rendu. Each of them dedicated their lives to serving those in need, without expecting anything in return. They knew that true greatness comes not from recognition but from humble, faithful service.

For us, this Gospel invites us to reflect on how we live our faith. We are called to serve with a humble heart, knowing that even the smallest acts of kindness make a difference. Like the Vincentians, we can trust that our faith, however small, can transform lives. Let us ask ourselves: How can we serve others today, with the same humility and dedication shown by those who walked before us?

Materials needed

Printed mustard seeds and pens

Activity

On your mustard seed:

- Recall a time when someone showed you kindness.
- What difference did it make to you in that moment?
- Did it change how you saw yourself, or how you treated others?
- Did it inspire you to pass kindness on?

Share: In pairs or small groups, tell your story (if comfortable). Notice how each act of kindness plants a seed which grows, reaching further than the giver may ever know.

Call to Action

Take notice of the kindness you receive from others this week. Each time someone shows you care or serves you in some way, make a conscious decision to pass that kindness on – especially to someone who may be in need of encouragement or hope.



