

***The apostles said to the Lord, "Increase our faith!" He replied, "If you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mulberry tree, 'Be uprooted and planted in the sea,' and it will obey you."* - Luke 17:5-10**

Today's gospel reminds me of a time when I was dealing with a situation with my daughter who was in a relationship with a young man that I did not like from the first time I met him – my spirit felt that he was “bad news”. She was living and working in Indianapolis, and I strongly believed that he was abusive, physically and emotionally although she never told me. I think this is every parent's worst nightmare. I could see that she was becoming distant and felt that he was trying to alienate her from her family – that's what abusers do! She was not attending church. I made sure to call her regularly, visited her often and remained in continual prayer believing that God would turn things around.

At that time I was attending a church in Woodstock, and one particular Sunday they invited anyone in special need of prayer to come to the altar. I went up and knelt and silently cried out to God that he would deliver my child from this situation. At the offertory I doubled by tithe. After church I came straight home. As I pulled into my garage, my phone rang – it was my daughter, crying, said – “Mom, I want to come home”. She told me she had gone to church that morning and after service, she stayed and talked to the priest. He told her it was “time to decide”. Two days later, I brought my daughter home. Today she is in Law School in San Diego. I am so proud of her.

Faith is continuing to believe God, even if we can't see anything yet. As we see God working in our lives our faith increases like the tiny mustard seed that grows into a very large tree. If our actions are to be transformed by God, then it entails being a servant of God – Luke 17:10 – “So you also, when you have done everything you were told to do, should say, ‘We are unworthy servants; we have only done our duty.’”

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