



WONDER IN ALL

God's Economy Can Work Miracles

a reflection by Celal Kamran

Increase our faith Lord, the apostles plea Jesus in our text. They have a deep desire to serve, and that is not always a given. Sometimes, I do not have this desire. Sometimes, I would rather serve myself or material things rather than the living God. This coming from a seminarian, who is devoting himself and his vocation to ministry, must seem odd. But our lives pull us in all sorts of directions, good and bad.

It can be hard to stay centered in God. But I do not think Jesus is asking us for what we might grandly imagine. The disciples might not have the faith they think they need, but they have a deep desire. A fellow seminarian said to me about his prayer life that nothing, absolutely nothing will get done until he has spent time centering himself with God. I loved that statement, and I hated how I fall short of that so many days. Regardless of my inaptitude towards this ideal, I have the desire. The desire for Christ to increase my faith. The desire to be centered in God in everything I do or leave undone.

Jesus responds with a reassurance. Faith like a mustard seed can be miraculous. And I think the disciples have shown their faith with their desire for faith. I am reminded of another

text where a man tells Jesus, I believe, help my disbelief. In both narratives, the people want to have faith. In both cases Jesus reassures them. They do not lack in faith but rather their desire redeems them and moves them closer to what they want. God does not ask for much, maybe just a mustard seed's worth of desire towards faith.

So, in this time of annual giving, reflecting on what we imagine we are being called to give, I think our imaginations do not match with what is asked of us. If that was the case, we would all be called to be St. Francis, who gave everything he had. Rather, we are being called to desire faith in what we give. And use that faith, no matter how small, to use the gifts God has given us to do the work God has called us to do. Because God's economy can work miracles, if only we desire it.



Celal Kamran is a Master of Divinity student, class of 2021, from the Episcopal Diocese of Virginia. He was born and raised in Pakistan until the age of eight, when he moved to Virginia with his family. Celal recently graduated from Messiah College

where he studied Biblical and Religious Studies. Celal has a passion for social justice and the collaboration of all people towards the Beloved Community. He works for the multicultural office at VTS and does field education at St. George's, Arlington. Celal loves spending time with his dog. He also enjoys cooking, reading and exploring different cuisines with his wife.

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Proper 22

Luke 17:5-10



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Reflection Questions

1. Do you believe your view of giving reflects God's desire of you?
2. What does the desire to serve God look like in your life?
3. When has your own stumbling revealed more than your success?
4. What would moving the mulberry tree with faith look like in your life and in the life of your community?

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