For Further Study

Read and meditate on the passage below:

31 He told them another parable: "The kingdom of heaven is like a mustard seed, which a man took and planted in his field. 32 Though it is the smallest of all seeds, yet when it grows, it is the largest of garden plants and becomes a tree, so that the birds come and perch in its branches." (Matthew 13:31-32)

The gospel according to Matthew tells the parable of the sower in the opening verses of chapter thirteen. Then, he continues the theme by sharing two more parables, back-to-back. The second parable is about wheat and weeds that grow in the field and are harvested together at the end of the season, but the third parable of the chapter is stated above.

Here, Jesus speaks of a single seed (in contrast to the scattering of many seeds in the first parable). In addition, instead of being wheat seeds, it is a tiny, mustard seed. The seed falls into the good soil in a field. Even though the seed is tiny, it grows into a large shrub or small tree. The birds come here to nest in the tree's branches.

Jesus' story is once again about our lives as we follow Jesus and not so much about evangelizing others to accept salvation. God's kingdom is ever-expanding. In each of us, it may start small, but over time it grows to encompass many aspects of our lives. In our relationships, it may appear tiny at first, but it expands our love, care, and concern for each other. In our communities and even around the world, God's kingdom is moving and touching people all around us. With God, life grows!

REFLECTION:
How are you experiencing God's growth in your life and community?

PRACTICE:
Reach out to a friend, check on them, and share a message of hope from your life.