

# THE SEEDS YOU NEED

*by Christine Ferguson*



CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS

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**CHRISTIAN PUBLISHERS  
EDUCATIONAL SERIES**

**THE SEEDS YOU NEED**

*Parable: The Mustard Seed*

**By Christine Ferguson**

## THE SEEDS YOU NEED

*Parable: The Mustard Seed*

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**SYNOPSIS:** A farmer sells seeds of success to a band member, seeds of popularity to an aspiring politician, and seeds of vanity to a woman chasing after youthful looks. Everyday Man chooses the tiny kingdom of God seeds paid for by Jesus and sets out to plant them.

**BIBLE VERSES:** Matthew 13:31-32, Mark 4:30-32, Luke 13:18-19.

### CAST OF CHARACTERS

*(2 female, 4 male)*

FARMER (m) .....Seller of a variety of seeds. *(31 lines)*

BOY (m) .....Teenage rock star wannabe. *(4 lines)*

GIRL (f) .....Teenage rock star wannabe. *(3 lines)*

MAN (m) .....A would-be politician. *(25 lines)*

WOMAN (f).....Vain and in search of more beauty.  
*(5 lines)*

EVERYDAY MAN (m).....A spiritual seeker. *(14 lines)*

**DURATION:** 10 minutes.

**SETTING:** A farmers market.

**TIME:** Present.

### SET

Suggest a farmers market by placing a table or a stand at center stage, and add a bench and a sign reading, "For Sale: Seeds of Success."

### COSTUMES

FARMER may dress in bib overalls and a plaid shirt. BOY and GIRL dress like rock stars. MAN wears a business suit. WOMAN is fashionably dressed and coiffed. EVERYDAY MAN wears everyday clothes.

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## PROPS

- ☐ Four bowls
- ☐ Large “seeds” (such as beans) in three bags
- ☐ One empty bag
- ☐ Tweezers
- ☐ Small packets or envelopes for the seeds
- ☐ Guitar
- ☐ Money
- ☐ Purse
- ☐ Bible

## PUBLISHER'S NOTE

Parables are earthly stories intended to reveal a heavenly meaning. They are by nature stories that people could relate to and which would inspire questions and discussion, thus providing the opportunity for revelation of the truth. We have brought these parables into present time where the listener can relate and once again ask questions, which will reveal the true meaning.

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**PARABLE:** <sup>30</sup>Again he said, “What shall we say the kingdom of God is like, or what parable shall we use to describe it? <sup>31</sup>It is like a mustard seed, which is the smallest of all seeds on earth. <sup>32</sup>Yet when planted, it grows and becomes the largest of all garden plants, with such big branches that the birds can perch in its shade” (*Mark 4:30-32*).



**AT START:** *Scene opens with the FARMER carrying in his wares and setting up shop. There is a bench already placed at a distance from the farm stand. He sets the bowls on his stand and sets up the “Seeds of Success” sign. He stands behind the table.*

**FARMER:** *(To audience, as if he has just noticed them. He speaks in “countrified,” farmer-like manner.)* Why, howdy, folks! Glad to see y’all here at the farmers market. *(Pours seeds from first bag into the first bowl.)* I been comin’ here nigh as long as I can remember. Long time, long time.

*(Pours seeds from second bag into second bowl.)* These seeds? You want to know ‘bout these seeds? *(Puts his hands down on the stand and looks at audience intently.)* These ain’t like any other seeds you know about. No siree. I named them “Seeds of Success” for a reason. If you’ve lived as long and as hard as I have, you’d notice that everything in this world grows from seeds.

*(Pours seeds from third bag into the third bowl.)* I ain’t just talkin’ ‘bout crops. It’s easy to see how crops grow from seeds. You plant ‘em, water ‘em, fertilize ‘em, and they’re bound to grow. But so it is with everything in life. You want to grow a business? It grows from seeds you water with hard work and determination. You want to grow a family? You fertilize them crops with love, discipline, and lots of other good things. Yep. Everything you grow starts from a seed and the success you get is determined by the quality of the seed and the effort you put into it.

*(Picks up the empty fourth bag.)* Yes, sir. But some seeds, you see, are different. *(Picks up the tweezers and acts as if he's carefully picking up small seeds with it, putting them in the fourth bowl.)* Take these seeds, for example. Very rare, and that's the truth. Tiny, tiny seeds. Don't look like much. But if you knew what was in 'em and how they grow, well, you might see their value. 'Scuse me. Looks like I got some customers.

*BOY and GIRL enter, walking toward the FARMER'S stand. BOY carries a guitar and has money in his pocket.*

**GIRL:** Look at that! Seeds of Success for sale! Maybe that's what we need!

**BOY:** It's worth a try. *(To FARMER.)* Hey, farmer! What have you got there?

**FARMER:** I'm sellin' Seeds of Success, guaranteed to grow. What kind do you want? Take your pick.

**BOY:** Well, we have this band, see...

**GIRL:** A garage band, really.

**BOY:** But we're pretty good, and we've played at some parties and even a wedding reception. We get a lot of compliments on our style. People seem to like it.

**GIRL:** We need more recognition. More exposure. We'd like to make a living out of this.

**FARMER:** Oh, I see! What you want are seeds of popularity. *(Puts some seeds from the first bowl into a packet.)* Worldly success depends on seeds like these. Folks have to like you and want what you have to give. Keep doin' what your're doin', and you'll be successful.

**BOY:** *(Reaches into his pocket and hands the FARMER some money.)* Thanks, old man! We're going to be famous!

*BOY and GIRL exit.*

**FARMER:** *(To himself, as he watches them walk away.)* Yeah, if that's what you want.

*MAN in business suit with money in pocket enters and walks directly to farmer's stand.*

**MAN:** Good afternoon, my good man! I see that you have something for sale that I could put to good use! Very good use!

*Unnoticed, EVERYDAY MAN enters and sits on the bench. He opens his Bible and reads silently, but every so often he looks up to see what's happening at the farm stand.*

**FARMER:** So, you want success? In what way? Maybe I'll sell you what you need.

**MAN:** I know what I need: political success! I'm running for office—a very high office, I might add. But I want to use it as a springboard for even higher political success. I'm aiming high, and I need the votes to get me there.

**FARMER:** *(Lets out a long breath.)* OK. I'll sell you some seeds. But you have to be very careful with these.

**MAN:** Oh, I will, I can assure you!

**FARMER:** I'll make a mixture for you. *(Picks up a packet and adds seeds from the first bowl.)* You're going to need popularity, and a whole lot of this, too. *(Adds seeds from second bowl to packet.)*

**MAN:** Oh? What kind of seeds are those?

**FARMER:** Them there are seeds of "charisma." That's the kind of personality that—well, that folks are drawn to, like a horse to water. When people trust you, it gives you a leg up on the competition. *(Holds onto the packet as if he's hesitant to give it to the MAN.)*

**MAN:** *(Reaching out.)* Exactly what I need! I want voters to follow me like the Pied Piper.

**FARMER:** You be careful with that, you hear? *(Gives MAN the packet.)*



*MAN, with a winning smile, reaches into his pocket and hands the FARMER some cash.*

**MAN:** With these seeds, I'm on my way to the top! I will be careful, farmer. You can have confidence in me. *(MAN exits.)*

**FARMER:** *(To himself.)* Confidence! *(Snort.)* That's why they call 'em "con men."

*Fashionably dressed WOMAN carrying purse with money enters. She looks around, as if she wants to escape recognition. She hesitantly approaches the farm stand.*

**FARMER:** Howdy doody, ma'am! Can I interest you in some seeds today?

**WOMAN:** *(Chewing her lip.)* I'm not sure... I don't know if you have what I need.

**FARMER:** Tell me what you're hankerin' for, and I'll let you know.

**WOMAN:** It's this. *(Looks around.)* I want to be beautiful.

**FARMER:** Well, ma'am, I'm no expert, but I think you look right fine already.

**WOMAN:** No, no, you don't understand... I want to be beautiful forever. For my whole life. I don't want wrinkles. I don't want saggy skin or gray hair. I don't ever want to look like a *(Shudders.)* grandmother!

**FARMER:** I like the way grandmas look! But if you're determined... *(Picks up a packet and starts filling it with lots of seeds from the third bowl.)* There's a lot can be done about your looks, if you want. Lots of surgery and shots and suchlike. It's going to hurt. You'll need lots of this to get through it all. *(Hands her the packet of seeds.)*

**WOMAN:** What is it? What kind of seeds are these?

**FARMER:** Vanity. Only vanity could make you care so much 'bout your looks. Or call it "pride." Much the same thing.

**WOMAN:** *(Opening her purse and giving him some money.)* Call it what you will, I want it! I will be forever beautiful! *(WOMAN exits.)*

**FARMER:** *(Shaking his head, talks to himself.)* But you're going to die anyway. Honey, you'll make a beautiful corpse.

*EVERYDAY MAN closes his Bible and walks over to the farm stand.*

**FARMER:** Hi there, young feller! Can I help you?

**EVERYDAY MAN:** Well, if you don't mind, I'd like to ask you about something. I've been watching you and all your customers.

**FARMER:** People are interestin', aren't they?

**EVERYDAY MAN:** They sure are. I see that you've sold seeds of pride, vanity, charisma, and popularity. Why exactly do you sell those kinds of seeds?

**FARMER:** 'Cause that's what people want. Sad, I know. I feel bad for them. They might get what they want, but it doesn't last forever. I just wish more folks wanted what's in my fourth bowl.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** I noticed that you didn't sell those to anybody.

**FARMER:** Truth be told, they're not for sale. They're already bought and paid for.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** Really? Then why don't you just give them away?

**FARMER:** *(Shakes his head.)* I would, but not everyone wants them. Look at them.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** *(Looks into fourth bowl.)* They're really small.

**FARMER:** They don't look like much, do they? But these seeds take root and grow in spite of everything you can throw at 'em. Wind, drought, nothing will kill 'em. They'll just keep on growin' and growin'. What they grow into—well, what they grow into will never die.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** Oh! I think I know what you mean! Those are seeds of... *(Holds up his Bible.)* the kingdom of God!

**FARMER:** You got it! If you take a look in that Bible you got there, you'll see that Jesus talked about the kingdom of God startin' out small. In Bible times, if they wanted to think of the smallest thing they could think of, they'd say, why, it was as small as a mustard seed. So Jesus compared the kingdom of God to a man sowin' a mustard seed in the field.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** Ah! Since you're a farmer, I'm sure you could relate to that!

**FARMER:** Sure can. God is the one who sows the seed, the field is the world, and the plant that springs up is the kingdom of God.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** And starting with that tiny seed, it grew so big that birds of all kinds could nest in its branches, and it grew so big it covered the whole earth.

**FARMER:** That's a fact. (*Picks up the fourth bowl and looks into it.*) Too bad most folks don't care 'bout this seed. They want somethin' that grows quick—somethin' gratifyin' to their flesh. But those things don't last.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** I guess not. But God's kingdom isn't easy to see sometimes.

**FARMER:** No, it's not. But just think what a small beginning it had—just a handful of disciples at first. But now there's millions—even billions of believers! Nothing will stop God's kingdom from coming here on earth. Nothing!

**EVERYDAY MAN:** Uh, you said the seeds were free. Do you think I could have some?

**FARMER:** I didn't exactly say they were free... I said they were bought and paid for. Bought with the blood of Christ. But, sure—you can have some. (*Hands him the fourth bowl.*) Here—might as well take 'em all.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** Gee, thanks! I'll start planting them right away.

**FARMER:** Now son, you know that you might not see 'em grow for a long time.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** I know.

**FARMER:** You might not even see any growth in your lifetime. One man plants, another waters, another reaps the harvest.

**EVERYDAY MAN:** I know. Sometimes God's kingdom isn't readily visible. But it will come.

**FARMER:** As sure as I'm standin' here! Well, be off with you now. It's time for me to close up shop. Go plant them seeds. And don't forget to be patient!

**EVERYDAY MAN:** (*As he exits the stage.*) I won't forget! Thank you!



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