



I was sitting with two young children: a boy, Elijah, aged 5 years and a girl, Danika, aged 6 years. Together we were contemplating and reflecting on the Parable of the Mustard seed. Towards the end of the presentation, the young boy asked: "But what will happen to the seed?" Unsure of what he was asking, I paused and asked: ...the seed that was planted?" "No, the seeds that are in the tree now." (This child lived on a farm and had a lot of

familiarity with how things progress in nature.) I responded: "Oh, well what do you think will happen to all those seeds?" He answered: "Well, the wind will blow them down onto the ground and then some of them will begin to grow into more mustard trees!" "Ah, I said...more mustard trees." He added excitedly: "Yes! More trees! And then they will grow and there will be more seeds to fall and more trees will grow and then again and again, it will keep happening!" To observe the intensity of joy and wonder growing and bubbling up inside and then being reflected in his facial features was amazing!

At this point the little girl marveled: "It will keep going on forever..."

To which he added: "It will **never** stop! Cool!"

We sat in that moment for what seemed like a long while, feeling content and full of amazement. Eventually, I added: "Yes... that really is, so, cool. I wonder how this is like the kingdom of God?" To be honest, I cannot remember the rest of our reflection after this moment except that we were all smiling and we were all kind of lost in thought about this incredible news!

I have never experienced level 1 children taking this parable so far into the mystery of it all, such a gift. I truly think God spoke a great word to us that day and paired with their individual maturity and experience of growing things and the time to ponder and be still, they were able to delve into this great promise of God. So very cool.

*This moment happened in French and I have done my best to translate it in such a way to preserve the meaning and vocabulary of the children. Except for the word "cool", was the actual word spoken and just so accurate!

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