

TEMPTED TO GIVE UP?

Matthew 13:31-32

PASTOR ZAC NAZARIAN | Apr 21-23, 2017

One of the great temptations of life is the temptation to give up.

Impatience breeds discouragement and the result is that we beat ourselves up.

The Parable of the mustard seed has three hopeful things to say to us before we give up on anyone or anything.

1) Jesus wants us to discover the might of the miniscule.

- The man who plants the mustard seed is the Lord himself.
- The seed is His gift of faith to us.

2) Jesus wants us to discover that it's not the size of our faith, but the immensity of God's power that makes the difference.

Prayer is the time for mustard seed planting.

- 3) Jesus wants us to realize that He's growing a mustard tree out of you and me.

Some questions for reflection:

- 1) Have you ever "given up"? What, when, why, and how?
- 2) Can you think of when you didn't "give up"?
- 3) What was the difference?
- 4) What relationship exists (if any) between not giving up and living supernaturally?

Spread of Christianity

From the U.S. Center for World Missions

By AD 1430, (1%) were BBCs* (One to 99 after 1430 years)

By AD 1790, (2%) were BBCs. (One to 49 after 360 years)

By AD 1940, (3%) were BBCs. (One to 32 after 150 years)

By AD 1960, (4%) were BBCs. (One to 24 after 20 years)

By AD 1970, (5%) were BBCs. (One to 19 after 10 years)

By AD 1980, (6%) were BBCs. (One to 16 after 10 years)

By AD 1983, (7%) were BBCs. (One to 13 after 3 years)

By AD 1986, (8%) were BBCs. (One to 11 after 3 years)

By AD 1989, (9%) were BBCs. (One to 10 after 3 years)

By AD 1993, (10%) were BBCs. (One to 9 after 4 years)

By AD 1997, (11%) were BBCs. (One to 8 after 4 years)

By AD 2010, (12%) were BBCs. (One to 7 after 13 years)

*BBCs = Bible Believing Christians