

The Kingdom of God...!

The Eucharist gives us the opportunity to continue to reflect on the word of God. It is always good to remind ourselves of two things whenever we have the opportunity to gather at Mass: What do I tell God about my life. What does God tell me about my life? God in the Mass speaks to us through prayers, songs, and readings. We speak to God through our active and full participation. Consequently, the readings of each Mass invite us to reflect on something that relates to our life.

The gospel of today, the gospel of Mark is the passage where Jesus uses the parable to teach his disciples and all of us. There are many reasons why Jesus used the parables in teaching his disciples. Some of these reasons are: (a) To make people listen. He needed the attention of the people because sometimes he taught outside the synagogue. (b) It was a familiar method the Jewish teachers used. (c) To make abstract ideas concrete. (d) Parable compels one to think for oneself.

The two parables (seed scattered in the garden & Mustard seed) tell us so much about the kingdom of God or the Reign of God. First, the parable of the seed scattered, which shows us the kingdom of God as unseen growth, but which has certain end. It tells us that the earth belongs to God and no matter what we do we don't have full control of what will happen. The kingdom belongs to God. It is true that through our human ingenuity we can control certain things, but we cannot control everything. God, the maker and creator of everything controls the universe according to his will. The parable tells us that the kingdom of God will live and reign forever. It will live to bear fruit, fruit that will last.

The parable of Mustard seed tells us something about the kingdom of God- from small to great. It tells us not to be discouraged by small beginnings. Every little thing we do for the sake of the God's kingdom adds to the reign of God. The worst is to do nothing. Our good work supposed to grow from small to great so that others will reap the fruit of our work. By and large, the two parables describe the kingdom of God in the context of growth. God wants us to grow day by day in our relationships with him. Holiness is a process not a place. The Christian journey is the journey of faith with all its challenges, but just St. Paul tells us in the 2nd reading "we walk by faith, not by sight." We ask the good that he will shower the light of faith in our lives so that we continue to pray and live it out in our daily lives. Amen.