

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME YEAR B 2021

The readings today remind us about the seeds of life and how the small things we see in life, can actually turn into great accomplishments. When we look at our faith, it is often the small or insignificant that are the focus of God's presence producing fruits like the mustard seed –take for example David, St. Paul or Mother Theresa etc..

God who sowed the seed of Christianity in us at Baptism, expects us provide fitting dirt, to weed, and water this seed planted in our hearts. We shall do that by living our daily Christian lives according to the planted Word. He also expects us to sow similar seeds in the hearts of others so as to make the world a better place to live in.

In today's first reading, Ezekiel gives us a sense of the creative and recreative power of the Lord, who can wither up the green tree, and make the withered tree blossom again. If He did such marvels and continues to do them, will He not be able to transform all our failures into victories? So, we are invited to keep trusting in our God who has the power to transform our lives. May we give back to Him our loyalty, our everything.

The Gospel extends the mystery of growth as a symbol for the kingdom of God, something that Jesus speaks of. The kingdom of God is compared to a wheat field that is planted and matures yielding a harvest with less intervention. It is also compared to a mustard seed that grows into a giant tree or a large bush where the birds come to rest.

The kingdom is an already and a not yet, remains close and yet somehow is clouded in mystery. The kingdom of God is spontaneous and tremendously large.

The kingdom of God develops in every person and in the world. It begins from the little seed of the Word of God and blossoms in our lives. It is not noisy; it is not showy but it grows and produces fruit so that so that a person's life is indeed transformed.

Our faith in God springs forth from the tiniest seed of faith planted in our hearts at Baptism. How large it grows depends on us. Though some of us received this gift at a very young age, as we grew up, we made a choice to be confirmed into the same faith. It is up to us now to continually take care of this faith by "weeding" and "watering" it.

The Kingdom of God is here for us to be a part of and to build. However, sometimes things get in the way preventing us from "watering" or "weeding" the faith we received. Whether it is work, school, family, relationships, technology name it all... So may we strive not to allow any of these to stand in our way of relating to our God.

Let us sow the seeds of new life including faith, justice, compassion, peace and love to make our world a better place to live in. Then we can only wait because we can't force the seed to become a big tree. We need to have faith as we wait. St. Paul has told us in the Second reading to walk by faith and not by sight. All we have to do is to provide the right conditions for growth. If we are patient, then eventually the harvest of what we planted will be seen.

May we strive to make choices that lead us closer to God and to one another so that at harvest time, the fruits from the seeds we have sown may be seen and we can end up with the good harvest in God's kingdom. Amen.