

Greetings to you! The theme for this morning's meditation is "From very small beginnings God produces great results". As we look around our world today, we notice that those who are recognized in the eyes of the world are people who are very talented, famous, rich, powerful and strong. However in God's eyes 'small is beautiful', meaning that those who are weak, powerless and despised by the world are the ones that the Lord will empower and use.

In the gospel reading for this morning Jesus speaks about the kingdom of God using parables. He has just finished teaching them through the parable of the sower. In that parable the response of the individual is seen as various soils. In the present set of parables, Jesus teaches about what the kingdom of God is like. There are two parables in this passage: the Growing seed, and the second, about the Mustard seed. These two parables teach us that though the beginning of the kingdom of God may be very small and insignificant; at the end they will disclose Jesus as the King of Kings. The growth of the seed on its own and the growth of the mustard seed into a massive tree, show the growth of the kingdom of God.

In the first parable the kingdom of God is likened to a man who scatters seed on the ground. The previous parable has already shown us the symbolism of the seed as the 'word' which was sown through the ministry of Jesus. In this parable, the man who sows the seed seems to have contributed nothing towards the growth of the seed. The seed seems to have grown on its own. The point of the parable is perhaps the pace in which the seed grows. Initially, it is seen as though nothing is happening, but eventually there is growth. In a similar manner there is an inner dynamic in God's message which will in due time produce its effect even if human insight cannot fathom it. The text says that, 'all by itself the seed produced the stock, then the head, and then the full kernel.' There is a gradual but definite growth. Likewise God's word that is sown in the hearts of people will have its effect in due course. God's disciple however, will have to wait for His time and for His work to be accomplished in His way. In the final clause he says 'when the grain is ripe at once he puts in the sickle because the harvest has come'. The harvest is symbolic of God's final Judgment.

The second parable that Jesus uses is about the Mustard seed. In this parable Jesus compares the kingdom of God to a small mustard seed that a man took and planted in the garden and the birds of the air perched in its branches. The striking thing about the parable is that from a very small and insignificant seed it grows to the point where it gives shelter to the birds of the air. This picture shows that the Kingdom of God offers rest, shelter, and security. It is to be a place where others would be renewed refreshed and rest secure. The tree makes no choices about what kind of birds should perch on its branches. We as the people of God are also asked to be open to invite others into the kingdom, no matter what faith, color, creed, and caste that people belong to. The kingdom of God began with twelve ordinary people but has now spread to the ends of the

earth. Growth of the kingdom of God works both within and without. Without, we see that the kingdom grows as more and more people recognize Jesus as their King and become his subjects. The kingdom of God works within us as soon as we establish a relationship with Christ and consistently allow the Spirit of God to work within us so that we may become more like Christ.

God uses small and insignificant people to build his kingdom. The kingdom continues to grow and will culminate at the second coming of Jesus. May we allow the kingdom of God to permeate our own lives so that we will grow up in the likeness of Christ and be a blessing to others.

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