

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

Jesus uses simple parables trying to explain the very nature of the kingdom of God to simple people – not to the scribes. He is not sure that they would understand him, although he uses images from everyday life. He tells them his parables – as far as they were capable of understanding – to reveal some secrets about the kingdom of God. He uses images from everyday life, very simple pictures, but he might not be sure that these images are clear for everybody. So Jesus invites his twelve disciples, who know him better than the crowd, and tries to give them a more detailed explanation about the core of his teaching. Just like to us. Do we understand him clearly? Definitely not, we try to understand Jesus as much as we can, but God's mysteries are beyond human words. How can we talk about what is above human understanding? How can we talk about God's measureless kingdom using limited human words? Yet God himself intends to make us understand the image, especially the inner processes of His kingdom. Jesus is sent to make us understand these mysteries.

It is important to realise, that the main thing in Jesus' parables is not how the kingdom looks like, but how the kingdom is growing and developing continuously in and around us. Let's see first the parable of the grain. The grain is growing when the circumstances are proper, but no one really knows how it all happens. We have already have DNS maps of different types of grains, and all scientific explanations of grain growing nowadays, but yet we cannot really grasp those moments when growing is happening. Just like the Kingdom. No one really knows how the kingdom is growing among us, but it is here, we feel it, we experience God's gracious present among us, especially when we take Jesus's words seriously.

At the time of the prophets people of Israel devotedly waited for the Kingdom of God. They waited for a great sign, a big event, the change of ages, the change of the course of human history, some kind of a big bang. Jesus appeared in history really quietly, as a baby boy in a manger. He did not shout in the streets, yet a lot of people listened to him. He was sent to announce that the kingdom of God is near. It is in us, and between us among those people who love God. It is here, he was sent to bring this kingdom to us. You do not have to wait for it any more, you just have to realise it, accept and welcome it. God wants to share the happiness of His kingdom with you as a gift: freely.

There were religious people even in Jesus' time who waited for the kingdom of God, but in a kind of aggressive way: they wanted to make it or get it by themselves. Through fasting, through prayers and other religious acts they hoped to get into the kingdom of God.

Others waited for a powerful leader, a king, who saves them from the Romans. Jesus' teaching, his whole personality, his humbleness contradicted their expectations as a matter of fact he made them quite angry. Their efforts to get the kingdom had been proved to be completely useless. He said to the people listening to him: "it is really God who gets the Kingdom grow in you. You only have to accept it, whoever you are, you can have it freely."

The kingdom of God develops in us, like the grain on the fields: from a small seed to a big tree. We do not have to get it by force. It has already been in us. God has time to encourage us to develop, he is not forcing us to anything. Some parents want to help their child to grow up faster, and they force him/her to do too much. They want the child to fulfil their expectations as soon as possible. They think that the development, the growing of the child is only their merit, it depends on their acts. They forget that it is impossible to get a baby talk or walk before he is mature enough to do it on his own. Just like in the case of the grain. There is no use of harvest before the proper time. The grain is tasteless and useless if it does not get mature enough for harvest. God gives us the proper time to get ready for his kingdom it's a real Good News.

He has a plan to let his kingdom grow in us. Sometimes so small this image of his kingdom in people (even in ourselves) that we hardly realise it. Like a mustard seed. But if we let God to get this seed in us grow, if we accept his plan concerning his seed in us, it will become a big tree and give shelter to many.

It is like a blessing: who are blessed, who are brave enough to welcome God's work in them, those become really strong – despite of all of their weaknesses in body – and can support others, too.

God's Kingdom is a dynamic reality, it is growing. You do not have to worry about it. Try to do your best, and trust the Lord the rest! Just like the sower is doing the harvest in the proper time. He does his best, yet it is the Lord, who prepares the harvest in its time.

Am I interested in the kingdom of God? I am looking for it. Sometimes it is enough, just looking for it. Jesus helps me to find it in myself or in others, if I want to get closer to this mystery. Jesus came to tell us that the kingdom of God is near. It is in us and between us. It is here, where we talk about Jesus. You just have to listen carefully. It is growing quietly in us and between us, like the grain on the fields. We only have to welcome Jesus teaching in our hearts.

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*Fr. Attila Thorday* (thorday@gmail.com)