



WEEK 4: Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time, June 13, 2021

Saint Mary Magdalen Mission: Share Christ with the World

Parish Vision: A dynamic and joyful church where people experience God's saving love.

We Value: Preserving the beauty and perfection of God's created order.

Ez 17:22-24 • 2 Cor 5:6-10 • Mk 4:26-34

Gospel

Jesus said to the crowds: "This is how it is with the kingdom of God; it is as if a man were to scatter seed on the land and would sleep and rise night and day and through it all the seed would sprout and grow, he knows not how. Of its own accord the land yields fruit, first the blade, then the ear, then the full grain in the ear. And when the grain is ripe, he wields the sickle at once, for the harvest has come."

He said, "To what shall we compare the kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade." With many such parables he spoke the word to them as they were able to understand it. Without parables he did not speak to them, but to his own disciples he explained everything in private.

REFLECTIONS

Like a seed planted in the ground, God works in hidden ways. We cannot always understand what He is doing or why things are turning out the way they are as God builds the Kingdom. Consider the mustard seed - that tiny seed has within it the potential to become the largest of plants, a source of food, and a dwelling place for the birds of the air - think about this wonder of the Creator's order for the world.

Jesus wants to use each one of us to build His Kingdom. We may feel as though we cannot do much, that we are not as gifted as others, that are not wise enough, that we are not ready. Instead, hang on to what we hear during the liturgy this week: "The seed is the Word of God, Christ is the sower. All who come to him will live forever." The truth is that each one of us is full of amazing potential God wants to bring to fruition as disciples of Christ.

DISCUSSION

1. Trees are so prominent in Scripture – consider the first reading and the Gospel. Do you have a tree story of the Bible that comes to mind - fig, cypress, olive, cedar?
2. In the Bible trees are signposts and gathering places, images of both the blessing and the judgment of God. You can tell how the story is going based on what's happening with the trees.
 - Is there a tree in your life, in your walk, in your yard or park that brings you shade of comfort, shade to hide behind? A branch to climb or a place to swing? A home for your favorite songbirds? Living artwork on your landscape? Or maybe you have a different experience – fallen branches, raking leaves, etc. Do you have a tree story of your own to share?
3. “We Value: Preserving the beauty and perfection of God’s created order”? What picture comes to mind, what action? Where do you place yourself in God’s “created order”?
4. “This is how it is with the kingdom of God,” Jesus says. Plant seeds - let God bring out the potential. Would others say that we build our kingdoms and aim to reach our potential more by being in control until success and profits come? Discuss the challenge to, as Paul says, “walk by faith, not by sight”.
5. Who has scattered seed in your life? In what ways have you benefited from the seed sowing of others? In what ways have you “scattered seed”? Have you seen your efforts bear fruit?

LIVING OUR VALUES

Reflect upon the incredible potential that God has placed within your soul – for you and for you as a disciple. He made you with the intention to bring forth His Kingdom through you and to do so in an abundant way. Plant some small seeds. Be kind to those who may not deserve it. Dare to share an invitation of accompaniment. We pray:

*Lord, I love You and thank You for all
that You have done in my life.
I thank You, in advance,
for all that You still desire of me.
I pray that I may daily surrender to You
so that You can come and nourish me
with Your grace, bringing forth from my life
an abundance of good fruit.
Jesus, I trust in You. Amen*

