

The Pastor's Corner

Jesus Speaks to Us in Parables

On Sundays in the year 2026, the Church continues to read fragments from the Gospel according to St. Matthew. During the upcoming three Sundays we will hear seven parables from chapter 13 of this Gospel. All seven of these parables deal with the mystery of the Kingdom of God. This single theme has such paramount importance in the Gospel that it will be illustrated in a variety of ways.



The parables are those of: 1. the Sower, 2. the Weeds and the Wheat, 3. the Mustard Seed, 4. the Woman with the Leaven, 5. the Buried Treasure, 6. the Merchant of Pearls and, 7. the Net Thrown in the Sea.

The first four parables present different kinds of *growth* and illustrate the expansion of God's Word. Of these, the first and the second (read during this Sunday's Masses) stress the readiness of the soil and the importance of patient waiting for the process of growth to be completed. The third and the fourth (read during next Sunday's Masses) contrast the exceeding smallness of the beginnings with the immense results in the end. The last three parables make it clear that our vocation to the Kingdom truly places before us a radical choice: the Kingdom cannot be appropriated little by little or half-heartedly, while carrying on other business on the side. *It presses us to make a choice of all or nothing.*

In two Sundays (July 26), we will hear the last three parables from the series. The fifth and the sixth parables (the Treasure and the Merchant) stress the sheer *joy* experienced by the one who discovers the Kingdom and gives up all other beautiful and valuable things for its sake, because the Kingdom is found to be more desirable than all else. The seventh and the final parable of the Net is a fitting summary of all that has preceded it: it affirms both the *universality* of the Christian vocation, which excludes no one, and yet the necessity of a final *separation*, resulting from the judgment about who has been worthy of the calling and who has not.

Through the parables that will be read in the coming three Sundays, Jesus reveals to us the mystery of our salvation. He teaches us how to live here, on earth, in order to gain the Kingdom of God. Without our response and participation even God who is Almighty is not able to save us since He does not want to, and is not able to, force us to love Him and to love our neighbors. We can and must recognize it ourselves. There is no other way.

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