

16th Sunday Ordinary Time (A)

At the gospel today, Jesus continues teaching to the crowds, through parables; using images and realities that were familiar to his listeners, and these parables are to reveal the mysteries of the Kingdom of heaven.

Let's try to find out the message of those parables for us today:

1. The parable of the good seed and the weeds growing together until the time of harvest; revealed to us the patience of God, who knows how weak we and humanity can be; but reminded to all of us about the end (of our life and time), when things will be sort out and God will judge our life; as we heard in the 1st reading with might and clemency.

If we look at our personal life, what will be evaluation... what is stronger in us, goodness or weakness? How can we do better? How can we reconcile and purify ourselves?

If we look at our world today, what can we say? How can we deal with the among of evil, temptations, sinfulness; how can we be in the world without belonging to it?

2. The parable of the mustard seed; revealed to us that small beginnings can lead to great expansions.

Sometimes we wish to see extraordinary things happening in our life, our community, the Church and the world; but we do not see or recognize little ones, and those little ones can make the difference: like kindness, respect, smiling, participation, generosity and so on.

The parable ends with an image that can teach us about the Church, living expression of the Kingdom where all are welcome, where we can be united, even though different! (Languages, nationalities, traditions, and one faith); a Church where we can grow in virtue and knowledge of Christ; a Church with out preferences or discrimination; a Church that welcomes everybody and offers possibilities of participation; a Church that strives to be faithful, to serve, to love and to be the living body of Christ.

3. The parable of the yeast, with a positive approach, continues with the theme of small beginnings, where we can be the yeast that produces the growth in our family, in our community, the country and the world.

As disciples of Jesus, we are called to be his witness, we are call the light and salt of the world.

What can we do to be that good influence, that inspiration for others to do better, to be committed, to serve, to love the things they do and live, to discover and follow Jesus?

Question for children: *What can you do to be the yeast, to help others to grow in their faith?*

Merciful Father, strengthen our faith to do what is good, to refuse what is contrary to your will and to be worthy disciples of your son Jesus. Amen.