

Third Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Gospel text (Mk 1:14-20): After John had been arrested, Jesus came to Galilee proclaiming the gospel of God: “This is the time of fulfillment. The kingdom of God is at hand. Repent, and believe in the gospel” ...

The "Kingdom of God" is a reality which includes several aspects

EDITORIAL TEAM evangeli.net (based on texts by Benedict XVI)

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, Jesus Christ discover us the core content of the "Gospel": the Kingdom of God is at hand! A milestone is set up in the flow of time, something new takes place. And an answer to this gift is demanded of man: conversion and faith. But what Jesus calls "the Kingdom" is a complex reality.

Historically, the Fathers of the Church offered three interpretative lines. (1) "The Christological one": Jesus himself is the "Kingdom"; the Kingdom is not a thing, it is not a geographical dominion like worldly kingdoms; it is a person, it is He. (2) "The Mystical interpretation": it sees man's interiority as the essential location of the Kingdom of God; it is not to be found on any map: it is located in man's inner being. It grows and radiates outward from the inner space. (3) "The Ecclesiastical one": the Kingdom of God and the Church are related in different ways and brought into more or less close proximity.

—It is methodologically illegitimate to admit only one aspect of the whole as attributable to Jesus. Only by accepting it in its entirety we can get access to, and let ourselves be guided by, His message.