

Friday 3rd in Ordinary Time

Gospel text (Mk 4,26-34): Jesus said, «In the kingdom of God it is like this. A man scatters seed upon the soil. Whether he is asleep or awake, be it day or night, the seed sprouts and grows, he knows not how (...). Jesus also said, «What is the kingdom of God like? To what shall we compare it? It is like a mustard seed which, when sown, is the smallest of all the seeds scattered upon the soil. But once sown, it grows up and becomes the largest of the plants in the garden (...)».

The Kingdom of God explained through parables

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

(Città del Vaticano, Vatican)

Today, Jesus' message of the "Kingdom" expresses its meager dimension as a temporal power, although it exerts a real and deep "sovereignty" in the souls. It is like a grain of mustard, the tiniest of all seeds. It is like a leaven, a small quantity in comparison to the whole mass of the dough, yet decisively important for what becomes of the dough.

It is like the seed that is planted in the field where it meets various fates: it is pecked up by the birds, or it is suffocated among the thorns, or else, it ripens into abundant fruit. Another parable tells how the seed of the Kingdom grows, but an enemy comes and sows weeds in its midst, which for the present grow up with the seed, with the division coming only at the end. Another aspect of this mysterious "God's lordship" comes to light when Jesus compares it with a treasure that was buried in the field: the finder sells everything in order to buy the field, and thus, gain possession of the treasure.

—The communion with you, O Jesus, is the "Pearl of great price" which is worth more than everything else.