

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time 2018

My beloved brothers and sisters, one of the images in the Gospel that Jesus uses on a constant basis, is the phrase: The Kingdom of God; and that is the image that He uses in today's gospel. This image is difficult for most people to understand today, even though some modern Monarchies still exist; they were nothing like the ancient monarchies at the time. The Monarchies of Jesus' time were absolute in their power over life and death of their subjects. Jesus reminds us that the Kingship of God is absolute. If there is a King, then there must be subjects. The Kingdom is not a club, where everyone gets to vote; and while God who is infinite in His love and infinitely patient, there are disastrous consequences for rejecting His Divine Lordship over our lives.

It is very important for us to ask ourselves the question, when we pray: "Thy Kingdom come..." in the Our Father, just exactly what we are saying. God's Kingdom is not of this world; rather, it is where hearts of men and women obey him out of faith and trust in His infinite wisdom and knowledge for what is right, real, true, good, just and beautiful, the transcendence of God that are visible in the world. We don't obey Him out of self-centeredness, egoism and fear, that belongs to the kingdom of this world, the domain of Satan and the fallen angels!

To love, serve and obey is very difficult for us, because of our fallen human natures. If we are going to do so, it means that we must continually surrender ourselves and our whole lives to His Divine Love; only He can make me Holy. It means that I have to continually struggle to listen to Him through prayer, and seek His will in the evolving moments of my life. It is a constant challenge, and that is why Jesus gave us the Sacrament of Confession.

Jesus uses the parables we have heard today, because He also wants to give us the Hope, that God is quietly, but inexorably at work within our lives producing the growth that will bring us into greater and greater union with Him and make the virtues of faith, hope and love grow within our lives, like the seeds in the story. God has created us for this growth into union with Him, and that is why He planted the seeds of His Holiness within us in our Baptism! It is our job to water and nourish the seed by practicing our faith, constant prayer and through

Confession and Holy Eucharist! It is this path which makes us good citizens of His Kingdom, and will surely bring about in our lives the abundant spiritual harvest that Jesus has promised!

Today, we see the disastrous consequences of those who have refused the Reign of God and His Divine Rule over our lives, we can see it and smell it in the rot of our society. However, we are the great hope for a disintegrating society. If we cooperate with God's reign in our lives, we can spread the influence of Christianity made visible in our lives into the world around us. G. K. Chesterton one time wrote: "It is not that Christianity has failed in our times; rather, the problem is that so few have tried it!" If you want to change the world, start by being holy; the Lord will do the rest!