



“Being vigilant at all times, to prevent any relapse, and instead staying focused on working for the Kingdom of our Glorious God!”

HAPPY FEAST OF ST. JOHN BOSCO. ST. JOHN BOSCO, PRAY FOR US

The two parables of the Day present to us, figuratively, some aspects of the Kingdom of God:

1. The Parable of the Kingdom of God as the seed that is sown, sprouted and giving a rich harvest, without being in the grasp of the awareness of the one who sows. What does this parable teach?

- a. **The duty of the one who sows, even if one is unaware how the growth-process happens:** Am I active and energetic in being an agent of the Kingdom of God – by speaking of Christ, by living His Gospel values, by freeing our lives from sin – even if I fail to understand ‘how’ would this help in the growth process of the Kingdom?
- b. **The glory of the growth of the seed, taking its own time and conveying the message of patience and persistence:** Do I be patient when success doesn't come to me immediately and do I continue to be persevering in my efforts – of prayer, of duty, of my responsibilities – even if it takes a longer time than I expect?
- c. **The assurance that the growth of the seed, fostered by earthly elements, nevertheless, given by the power and grace of God.** Do I be faithful to the duties that I need to do and then totally depend on the mighty hand of God in order to experience success and see the fruits of my labor? As the Psalmist says, “Unless the Lord builds the house, they labor in vain, who build” (Ps 127: 1) As Saint Paul says, “I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the growth’.

2. The Parable of the Mustard Seed as the Seed that is the smallest when sown yet grows on to be the greatest of all shrubs and becomes a shelter for the birds of the air. What does this parable teach?

- a. The little things of life also have the potency to develop to give the greatest results, since God is the Author of such successes and accomplishments:** Am I convinced that even if my resources – be it talents or time or income or personnel or anything else – are too small or insignificant, they can still become powerful means for the growth of God's Kingdom, if we are faithful and depend totally on His grace?
- b. The external growth and triumphs that are achieved, in turn, ought to become a source of help and solace for the others (as the birds of the air take nest in the huge mustard shrubs):** Do the achievements of my life – small or big- help me to become a person who reaches out in support and solace, to the needy ones?
- c. An element of surprise and wonder is present in every act of nature – the little mustard seed, which would otherwise have been trampled upon as something too ordinary, amazes by its extraordinary growth:** Am I able to trust in the "surprising and astonishing" wonders that the Lord can perform in 'any' situation of my life ?

All of us are part of the Project 'Kingdom of God'.

King David fell into the great temptation of sin by relaxing himself in the great task of Project 'Kingdom of God.' (2 Sam 11:1-10, 13-17). This reminds us of the need to remain steadfast to the Lord at all times and to become aware that, if we are not careful, watchful and vigilant, we are vulnerable to fall into the lures of sin.

Let us seek the intercession of St John Bosco, on this Feast Day, for this Grace of "recognizing the Presence of the Lord in our lives and avoiding any relapse" and give heed to his words: "Be brave and try to detach your heart from worldly things and do your utmost to banish darkness from your mind and come to understand what true, selfless piety is. Cheer your faith, which is essential to understand and achieve piety."

Let us pray:

Lord give me Your grace that I may nurture and grow in the task of the Kingdom that is entrusted to me, in the little or big way and grace me by totally depending on you and not 'relaxing' in the comfort zones of my life and thus bring glory and honor to my Supremely Glorious and Omnipotent God

Jesus, I Trust In You