



The Gospel for three Sundays in the month of July consecutively speaks about the **Kingdom of God**. Jesus uses different parables; the Mustard Seed (Mt 13:31-32), the Yeast (Mt 13:33), the Hidden Treasure (Mt 13:44), the Pearl of Great Price (Mt 13:45-46), the Dragnet (Mt 13:47-50), the Household Treasures (Mt 13:52), and the Sprouting Seed (Mk 4:26-29) to explain about the Kingdom of God to his disciples.

Jesus talks about the Kingdom of God throughout his ministry. It is generally considered to be the central theme of Jesus' teaching. He began his ministry preaching about it; "The time is fulfilled, and the Kingdom of God is at hand; repent and believe in the Gospel" (Mk 1.15). Kingdom of God also called Kingdom of Heaven, in Christianity, the spiritual realm over which God reigns as king, or is fulfillment of God's will on earth. It is God's reign through God's people and over God's place (creation). So, it's about the reign of God or Kingship of God. It is the vision of the world reordered around the powerful love God in Christ. It is a new world-order, in heaven and on earth, produced by the revolutionary changes brought about Jesus' fulfillment of the Old Covenant in his life, death, resurrection and ascension. It is wherever Christ is acknowledged, where his subjects are saved, where his enemies are vanquished and where his ways are obeyed. It is anywhere or anytime or anyone whom Jesus Christ exercises lordship. It's the king reigning in hearts, minds and kingdom is built on grace and advances with compassion. Therefore, in this Kingdom of God, the Throne is the Cross, Crown is the thorns, Rules are the Commandments, and the Citizens of the kingdom are those who live by the Gospel.

Here is a beautiful explanation about the Kingdom of God given by Gerald Darring (St. Louis University: Center for Liturgy): **The Kingdom of God is a Space**. It exists in every home where parents and children love each other. It exists in every region and country that cares for its weak and vulnerable. It exists in every parish that reaches out to the needy. **The Kingdom of God is a Time**. It happens whenever someone feeds a hungry person, or shelters a homeless person, or shows care to a neglected person. It happens whenever we overturn an unjust law, or correct an injustice, or avert a war. It happens whenever people join in the struggle to overcome poverty, to erase ignorance, to pass on the Faith. The Kingdom of God is in the past (in the life and work of Jesus of Nazareth); it is in the present (in the work of the Church and in the efforts of many others to create a world of goodness and justice); it is in the future (reaching its completion in the age to come). **The Kingdom of God is a Condition**. Its symptoms are love, justice, and peace. Jesus Christ is king! We pray today that God may free all the world to rejoice in his peace, to glory in his justice, to live in his love.

As the world continues to suffer from Covid-19 pandemic, let us reflect on the explanation about the Kingdom of God by Gerald Darring and check for ourselves if we have such Kingdom that God wants us to build around us and see if we have the symptoms of the Kingdom of God in our life. We all want a better world to live but do we contribute towards the better world is the question that each one of us need to ask. "Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things will be added unto you" (Mt 6.33).