



Sixteenth Sunday in the Ordinary Time

Once again Jesus is using parables to teach about the kingdom of God. The images are familiar ones to those who heard Him. Most people in that time would know well about farming, harvesting, tending a garden, and using yeast for flour to bake with. Our Lord is fulfilling what the prophets of old predicted of Him, namely it would be through parables spoken that would reveal what was hidden since the world's creation.

The first of these parables refers to judgment at the end of the world. Jesus speaks of allowing the weeds to grow along side of the wheat with the revelation that a time will come when the weeds will be collected to be burned. In His mention of the mustard seed, Our Lord gives confidence that with the proper care tremendous growth and progress is possible. Finally, he uses the image of the woman mixing yeast along with the flour to rise the dough thus producing a large amount for baking.

If there was any mistake in the understanding of His disciples, Jesus explains the meaning of His words. With absolute clarity we hear of all the characters in these parables and the roles they play. We, the present-day followers of Jesus benefit from this kind of clarity. Although sobering, it provides an opportunity to choose the way that will lead to our own salvation. If we believe following Christ is too difficult at times, St. Paul's assurance to the Romans should encourage us as well. *"The Spirit too helps us in our weakness ..."*

This message for us is not meant to threaten or frighten us, but rather to offer a choice to live our lives following along the path to salvation. The path which is Christ Himself.

Peace,

Fr. Robert