

The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed...

Homily, 25th October, 2016

Luke 13,18-21

father G. Paparone o.p.

Many times we have listened to these two little parables, two brief lessons that, however, enlighten us on a great secret of Christian life, on a fundamental practice: **growth** and **transformation**. Two things intimately correlated with each other: the growing from smaller to bigger is connected to another existential activity, to another existential result that the word of the Lord produces in our life: that of transformation.

We grow, in fact, to the extent our life becomes transformed, becomes something else.

But, I would like to dwell on a third aspect these two parables tell us about: the mustard seed grows so big that it becomes a tree where the birds of the air come to build their nest.

I wonder what he [Jesus] meant...

If there was a teaching behind these words or if this was simply the culmination of the fact the tree grows very wide, full of foliage, rich of leaves...

I do not know; but, at this moment I'd like to think that also this detail, this annotation, alludes to a dimension in our life as men and Christians in this world: **if we make the Kingdom of God grow inside us, if it transforms us, then, in turn, we become like those trees where birds come to seek refuge, in other words, where people can come to find solace, to rest, to listen to our words, to our example...**

It is not necessary to be priests or bishops to do this, it is sufficient to be Christians; Jesus is talking to the Christians.

How great to see the kind of mature, adult people who are able to be welcoming, to dispense some authentic advice; a smile; company; acceptance...

Consider how all of us are in search of people we can share something beautiful with, or that we can rely upon when we do not have in ourselves the sufficient or needed resources.

Here is, then, that those who welcome the Kingdom of God, who make it grow in their lives, become like this tree, where many birds can find refuge.

Let's ask the Lord to transform us with his Kingdom, to arrange for many people to find in us some consolation, a source of support, refuge and safe guidance.

Thanks be to God.