

(Food for thought: Gospel Matthew 13: 24-43.)

## **“Like nothing we would expect”**



Jesus uses many images in his parables. He tells us clearly that we should expect growth and change - that we are to be open to welcome all, without condition or exception. He never said that it would be an easy task. In fact, He showed us by example just how difficult and "uncomfortable" it could sometimes be.

The lesson that Jesus teaches is simple but inescapable: the presence and the love of our God is something very near; we feel it and are touched and moved by it in the ordinary events, people and places of every day. These events, the people and the places may not often be

the kind where we would rather meet our God. He is often uncomfortably near us in situations and persons where we would prefer not to see Him, or in voices that we would prefer not to hear. But that is precisely the challenge of the authentic love of God. We are challenged to be Christ for others and to reflect the nearness of the Kingdom.

The Kingdom of Heaven is like nothing we would expect. It is as close to us as our dearest friend, or our worst enemy; it touches us in our greatest joys and in our deepest sorrow. And it is never farther away than our next breath, or sigh, or tear, or burst of laughter.



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