

(Food for thought: Gospel: Mark 4: 26-34)



“How is it with the Kingdom of God?”

There are thirteen parables in the Gospel of Mark. Two of them appear in today's Gospel. And Jesus introduces today's parables by saying, "This is how it is with the kingdom of God...."

Parables are stories; they are not theological arguments. Jesus is trying to describe for us a way of seeing our lives through another lens, through the lens of the parable. The parables reveal the way Jesus would have us look at things. They open us up to His perspective and we need to listen carefully.

In the first parable the farmer does very little work - if any -while the seed grows

to maturity. "On its own accord the land yields fruit." Then, at the right time the farmer re-enters the story to do the work of harvest.

The second parable: Jesus shifts our attention away from thinking about quantity to considering the quality of the faith we already have. Faith is not something that we can have more or less of. Faith, it seems, doesn't have to increase - as much as exist. Having faith doesn't automatically give the believer the power to perform crowd pleasing spectacles or life-saving miracles. But it does mean that we are in touch with God and experience God as the source of that energy which enables us to live good lives, marked by the ability to forgive - as we ourselves have been forgiven; to reach out to one another - as we ourselves have been found and embraced by God.



Want to read more Sunday Reflections? Click [here](#).