I WILL OPEN MY MOUTH IN
Parables
I WILL ANNOUNCE WHAT HAS Lain Hidden
FROM THE FOUNDATION OF THE WORLD.
MATTHEW 13:35

SIXTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
JULY 19, 2020
How Does the Kingdom Come?
Reflection by Pope Francis

“How Does the Kingdom Come,” Christians persistently repeat when they pray the “Our Father.” Jesus has come; but the world is still marked by sin, inhabited by many people who suffer, by people who do not want to reconcile and do not forgive, by war and many forms of exploitation. Let us think about child trafficking, for example. All these facts are proof that Christ’s victory has not yet been completely attained. Many men and women still live with closed hearts. It is above all in these situations that the second request of the “Our Father” emerges on the lips of Christians: “Thy kingdom come!”, which is like saying: “We need you, Father! We need you, Jesus. We need you, Lord, to be everywhere and for ever, in our midst!”

“Thy kingdom come, may you be in our midst.”

We sometimes ask ourselves: why is this Kingdom so slow to come about? Jesus likes to speak of his victory in terms of parables. For example, he says that the Kingdom of God is similar to a field where weeds and good wheat grow together: the biggest mistake would be to immediately intervene, by uprooting from the world what appear to us to be invasive weeds. God is not like us. God is patient. It is not through violence that the Kingdom is established in the world: meekness is its means of propagation (cf. Mt 13:24-30).

The Kingdom of God is certainly a great strength, the greatest one there is, but not according to worldly criteria. This is why it never appears to have the absolute majority. It is like leaven that is kneaded with flour: it apparently disappears and yet, it is what makes the dough rise (cf. Mt 13:33). Or it is like a mustard seed, so small, almost invisible, which, however, carries within it nature’s most explosive force, and once fully grown, it becomes the largest tree in the garden (cf. Mt 13:31-32).

St. Mary Magdalene
Patron Saint of Sexual Temptation • July 12

Mary Magdalene was one of Jesus’ most faithful followers. According to the Bible, she had been a sinner and Christ drove the evil from her. Because of the Lord’s kindness, she completely transformed her way of life. Her thanks to Him were shown by her love and complete devotion to God. She was present at the Lord’s Passion and burial and was among the women who administered to Christ during His suffering and actually washed His feet with her hair. She was also the messenger of the good news of Jesus’ Resurrection. Mary Magdalene’s example of penitence has inspired Christians for centuries.

Prayer to St. Mary Magdalene

O faithful Mary Magdalene, you were so willing to atone for your sins, finding happiness and light through God. I entreat you to pray for me so that I may rid myself of wrongdoing. Pray that I remain true to God’s desire and keep my own desires pure. Ask our Father in Heaven to take away this temptation so that I may remain on the path of righteousness. Amen.
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