

11th SUNDAY YEAR B 2021.

PATIENCE IN SMALL BEGINNINGS.

We had six Sundays of the Ordinary Time in the church's liturgical year. Then we had what we could call a commercial break for Lent and Easter and the following Sundays full of mysteries. We now resume the Ordinary Time in the liturgical year with the 11th Sunday in Year B. The readings today are calling us to patience in small beginnings. Life calls for a lot of patience and trust. Nature itself teaches us to have this by appreciating how things like seeds grow. We cannot plant a tree and expect fruit instantly. This is also true in spiritual matters; we must try and trust that God will take over. He makes everything grow and gives shelter with his protective care as we are told in the first reading from the book of Ezekiel.

The parable of the mustard seed in the gospel of today talks of humble beginnings of the church and its growth into the kingdom of God. These parables are encouraging the followers of Christ to have **trust and patience and not to expect instant results**. Through the power of God from small insignificance beginnings, the kingdom will grow to something great. It is encouraging us not to give up, not to be discouraged by challenges through small beginnings. It is telling us we should not expect instant results.

We are in an age of **instant products**; we want everything instantly. Don't we have and look for **instant things? like Tea, coffee, soup, photos, Facebook marriages!!!!?** We are getting tired of waiting for anything. The result produces substandard products thus making the quality to suffer, yet we are ready to sacrifice the quality for the time saved. What a pity indeed. Our age seems to be an age of **push button**, turn and touch a button and things will happen without an effort, like escalators, automatic doors, passage lifts, washing machines, frozen food. Obviously, these help so much and take away most of the monotony in life but there is a danger in living in such a world of push

buttons. The push button might encourage minimum effort, less cost shortcut approach of everything in life including spiritual life. It might lure us in the direction of always seeking the easy option thus foregoing the genuine things in life.

There are things in life you do not have short cuts and push buttons for, **like building good character, good relationships, understanding the growth of your children, overcoming one's weakness and sin. All these take time and grow slowly.** In the Gospel, the farmer plants the seeds and all that he could do after caring and providing the proper environment is ***wait with patience for the growth and fruits.*** We should note the fact that human development ***is a process.*** We must give ourselves time and space and ***let God act on what he has created and cooperate with him with trust and patience.*** This is a process of ***growth, healing, recovering, and spiritual progress. IT IS NOT AN INSTANT THING.***

We are only facilitators, we can only plant, but God makes it grow and He is the one who gives fruit. We must ***learn patience and trust in watching Mother Nature.***

LET US GIVE OURSELVES TO GOD TRUSTING HIM TO USE US AS HIS INSTRUMENTS.

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