

Lent Day 6

Tuesday February 16, 2016

Reading: Mark 30-34

Reflection

I think we, the church, often take this verse to be very comforting. Our witness may start small, but it will grow large – large enough to provide shelter. But, I'm not sure everyone would feel comfortable with this.

C.S. Lewis once said that the atheist could never be too careful because God was always laying traps for him in the world. As I reflect on this parable I see a word which, if understood, could be quite threatening to people. Just a small amount of 'kingdom' allowed to be planted will grow to many times its original size.

If you and I seek to have the word of the kingdom planted in us, do we realize what is sure to happen? We will be taken over by the kingdom! I think the image is aggressive. In this way, in typical Jesus fashion, this parable is both a promise and a warning. Not only can we have our lives transformed (notice how we think we are in control) but we will have our lives transformed (notice how that control just evaporated)!

We are the disciples of Jesus and we usually assume that we want a transformed life, but do we really? Are we ready for what that entails? I have no doubt it's what we need. It's what we should want, but if we don't understand what we're signing up for we are just going to be surprised and resistant to what God is doing in us as the kingdom takes root.

Prayer

Lord, you who cause good growth. Plant the seed of the kingdom deeply in us and allow it to take over all the barren spaces. Amen.