

Session One · The Kingdom Has Come

The Sower · The Growing Seed · The Mustard Seed · The Leaven

WHAT WE FOUND

Jesus never defined the Kingdom the way a textbook would. He said, “The kingdom of heaven is like ...” and told a story. Tonight four of them landed the same truth from four angles: the Kingdom comes the way a seed comes, hidden, patient, and unstoppable.

The Sower showed that the same Word falls on every kind of soil, and the harvest varies with the soil’s readiness, not the Sower’s generosity; and even that readiness is itself a work of grace, which is why this week’s prayer is “Lord, make me good soil.” The Growing Seed showed that the Kingdom grows by a power we do not produce, even while we sleep. The Mustard Seed and the Leaven showed that it begins imperceptibly small and ends up everywhere. The question the night left with us: what kind of soil am I, and what are the thorns?

VOICES OF THE CHURCH

St. Augustine of Hippo (354–430) No soil is permanently fixed. The heart that has been a hard footpath can be plowed open by grace and become fruitful, as his own conversion proved.

St. John Chrysostom (347–407) In his Homilies on Matthew (Homily 44), the seed and the Sower are the same in every case; only the soil varies. Do not blame the preacher or the Scripture for the unfruitfulness of your own heart, and take hope that the Sower scatters even on hard ground.

St. Thomas Aquinas (1225–1274) He taught that grace is God’s work in us, growing by a power we do not supply (cf. Summa Theologiae I-II, qq. 109-114). Applied to tonight’s parables: smallness of origin is no measure of greatness of destiny, and the seed grows whether the sower wakes or sleeps.

LIVE IT THIS WEEK

1. Before you open Scripture or sit down to pray this week, say one sentence aloud: “Lord, make me good soil today.” Then read or pray slowly, paying attention to what you hear.
2. Name the one “thorn” that most chokes the Word in you, a worry, a distraction, a competing love. Write it down and bring it to prayer or to confession.

SCRIPTURE MEMORY

Copy it out this week and carry it with you: **Matthew 13:23**

WHAT STAYED WITH ME

One line, an image, or a question from tonight that you do not want to lose:

BEFORE NEXT SESSION

Read ahead: Matthew 13:24-30 and 36-43 (the Weeds), and Luke 13:6-9 (the Barren Fig Tree).

Catechism: CCC 541, 543, 546