

11th Sunday in Ordinary Time



Today's reading talk about growth. They say that it's not just due to human efforts, but that God has the determining role. They see God not as an aloof spectator, but as a personal, interested participant.

The first reading speaks to the despair of the exiled Jews in 6th century BC. The temple had been gutted and there was no Davidic king. It speaks of the renewal of David's line with no specific time frame. The top of the cedar is David's house. God will reverse fortunes.

The second reading speaks for the longed for growth to the spiritual life with the Lord. It says that we wish to leave the material body and ascend to life in the spirit.

The Gospel tells of the lack of involvement of the farmer in the plant growth. He puts the seed in the ground and walks away not to return until harvest. In the in-between, God germinates the seed and raises the plant above ground until it matures. Then, he causes it to produce the fruit. It's likely that this parable responded to those who questioned the slow progress of the kingdom of God. In the same manner, the comparison of the mustard seed is to the kingdom. The preaching of Jesus is somewhat inconspicuous, but God will bring about astounding developments. The beginning is small, but the end result is amazing.