

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Tuesday, 29 October 2019

XXX Week of the Ordinary Time

Lk 13:18-21 (The greatest things can have the smallest beginnings)

Fr. Jomi Pathukulangara CMI, Ghana

As we are slowly coming to the close of the extraordinary mission month declared by the Pope Francis, the gospel passage motivates us with points as what should be our attitude when we are at the mission. Jesus invites us to meditate about the kingdom of God which is a reality to which we all strive to move on. But for a missionary the land to which he or she is sent must become a place which should be transformed into the kingdom of God.

Jesus uses two parables in the gospel which brings us the importance of the kingdom of God. In the first parable he tries to compare the kingdom of God with a mustard seed. As it becomes a tree it gives shelter to many birds of the air. The presence of the missionary should be bringing unity in the particular place or church where he works. He is one but he can unify or coordinate different group of people or religions or denominations. It's not necessary that he should concentrate on propagating Christianity but he should be able to become an instrument of peace and unity. For this he should have the openness to accept the truth and good from others. He should be able to acknowledge the values of others. He also should be bold enough to correct the mistakes and injustices that takes place in front of him. He should a one man army. He should be able to become an encouraging, comforting unifying, motivating, liberating and coordinating presence among them. Then he can become a shelter to many and the establishment of the Kingdom becomes a possible reality.

As I have mentioned before Ghanaian culture accommodates different denominations within one family. Though they are members of different denominations they live peacefully under one and the same roof. If one of the members is Catholic and he has some big function in his church, the other members, who belong to other denominations also join the function. This is the same with everyone in the family. yes, the unifying point of the family is Christ himself.

Again Jesus comes with the parable of the leaven which makes the whole dough to ferment. Yes, the presence of the missionary disciple should become a leaven wherever he is. Just like the leaven his works may not be seen by all. But there happens the change in the community or church. His influence over the people will be noteworthy. Again just like the leaven his motivation and encouragement inspires many to effect change in their lives. This change or conversion takes place from within. Once new men are created a new world will surely follow.

And for this a missionary disciple should realize kingdom within himself. Just like the dough has no power to change itself neither has he. To realize kingdom he needs a power outside and beyond him. He needs the master of life who also enforced the change from above just like the leaven.

Let's depend on our master for the strength to equip ourselves so that we can effect change in the world and people whom we come in contact with. Amen.

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