

Sermon Summary

3rd after Pentecost

17th June 2012

- Both parables in this morning's gospel (Mark 4:26-34) talk of the Kingdom.
- This is known also as the Kingdom of God or the Kingdom of heaven.
- In general we might say that the Kingdom has some of the characteristics of a place, but should not be thought of as a geographical entity
- It is desirable
- Effort is needed to get into it.
- We often get confused about WHEN we enter the Kingdom
- The NT contains passages which suggest we will enter it, others that we already have...
- The answer to this puzzle is that in Baptism we enter the Kingdom, but have yet to experience it in all its fullness.
- However, this does demand a change in our attitude.
- We should not be people who think that we will enter, but think of ourselves as people who already have entered.
- As people who have already received the blessings and benefits of being members of the kingdom
- This means that we should share the peace and joy which are benefits of knowing and doing God's will (being members of the Kingdom) with other
- It means we can say to people: yes, being a Christian isn't just about what happens when you die, but about having a better quality of life here and now

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