

Devotional blog - Kingdom of God

Mark 4:26-35

Have you ever tried to explain something to others?

My son asked me when he was young, "Mum, how much do you love me?" I replied with a smile, "I love you to the moon and back!" And his face looked content.

Using a trip to the moon and back is a tangible way for my son to grasp 'how much I love him' at his level. The founder of the Methodist movement, John Wesley once said, "In order to get your message across, you can either bring them up to your level, or you get down at their level to talk to them. And I choose the latter when I communicate with my son.

No doubt that the act of communication is a skill to master. In Mark 4, the gospel writer tells us that Jesus also chooses to get down at our level to get his message across about the Kingdom of God.

Jesus said, "The Kingdom of God is like someone scattering the seeds. After a while when the crops grow, it's time to reap the harvest. And The Kingdom of God is like a mustard seed, the smallest seed that was known at Jesus' time. It grows into a massive tree that offers a refuge to the birds of the air."

He bears witness in parables, revealing that, the kingdom of God is about the sanctuary for others. It is about satisfying the hungry in this overwhelming and frustrating world.

In Jesus' time, people were stressful and devastated. Being ruled by various empires for more than 500 years, encountering defeat and suppression, living as second class citizens, facing the harshness in life were prevalent among the Jewish nation.

Hearing these words that they can understand, is like a breath of the fresh air breathing in new hope to their hopeless life. The Kingdom of God is near to ease their suffering. God of their ancestors: Abraham, Issac and Jacob will come to their aid and transform their situations!

Jesus who loves us all constantly finds way to speak to us so that we can understand the goodness of his kingdom especially in our overwhelming circumstance. Do we pay attention to them? Do we want to hear his transforming word that brings eternal hope and the resurrection power through Christ?

The gospel writer also tells us that Jesus increases the appetite of his disciples by explaining the meaning of everything to them. That being so, Jesus fulfils what he has proclaimed in the previous verse 24, "the measure you give will be the measure you get, and still more will be given you."

Dear brothers and sisters, Jesus intends to pour out his abundant blessings to you and me to proclaim his Kingdom of sanctuary and of content. So,

Come and see! Come and Listen! Jesus loves you to the moon and back! Amen.

Let us pray:

O Come, and dwell in us, Spirit of power within, and bring glorious liberty. Open our ears to hear, our hearts to receive, our minds to obey your precious Word that will take us from sorrow, fear and sin to healing, health, and holiness through your perfect love in and through Jesus Christ our Saviour. Amen.