

Today I would like to start with a prayer from St. Ephrem. Let us pray... Lord, Your symbols are everywhere, yet You are hidden from everywhere. Though Your symbol is on high, yet height does not perceive that You are; though Your symbol is in the depth, it does not comprehend who You are; though Your symbol is in the sea, You are hidden from the sea; though Your symbol is on dry land, it is not aware what You are... Blessed is the Hidden One shining out! Amen.

This prayer embodies a paradox, that something hidden can both shine and also transform...

It is a prayer that embodies God in both mystery and in creation...

Like when Moses parted the Red Sea... God was at work in ways that were hidden and in ways that were seen...

But since we do not encounter such things on a regular basis, we are left to experience God in our time, by ushering in the Kingdom of Heaven...

Which Jesus explained to us today...

By sharing some parables and creating more paradoxes...

As the Kingdom of Heaven is a paradox in itself... It is both in our midst and is a promise of what is yet to come...

Where what is yet to come is something beyond our understanding...

But what is in our midst, can grow out of the tiniest of seeds.

Like in the parable of the mustard seed...

Where a small seed grew into a tree, and became a home for birds....

And though a mustard tree is more like a shrub, it gets the job done, by providing sanctuary, and supporting life...

Taking the pressure off of us... That to usher in the Kingdom of Heaven, we do not need to do anything large or extravagant...

We just need to trust in our actions, knowing that God will take what we give and grow it into something great...

Because this parable is all about transformation.

And our world is in deep and desperate need of transformation...

As we experienced in the parable of the sea... Where both good fish and bad fish were caught and separated...

Separation that was not meant to be done by humans... And yet the world is consumed with people separating things, claiming this is good and this is bad...

Bringing about hatred and divisions...

Cultivating a world where judgment is given... Even when it is not ours to give...

As this is God's creation and God is working to transform all things into God's realm...

So instead of judging others, God calls us into action...

Where we trust that God will guide us into the actions that are needed to bring about the Kingdom of Heaven...

Like we experienced in the parable of the treasure and the parable of the pearl... Because both parables required action, through sacrifice...

Because the Kingdom of Heaven is more valuable than anything we could own...

And when let go of our earthly possessions and desires, we free up space, allowing God to work more freely through us.

As the Kingdom of Heaven is bought forth by what God does through us...

So, you do not need to worry about every little thing you do or if you are doing it "right."

Because God is faithful, and God will continue to work in you and guide you...

Bubbling up inside of you and nudging you...

Which brings us to the parable of the yeast...

Where a woman hid yeast in a ridiculous amount of flour... So much flour you could bake 40 or more loaves of bread...

And yet this tiny amount of hidden yeast transforms all the flour causing it to rise...

Revealing that even when you have a ton of stuff going on in your life, transformation is always possible...

As it is God who does the work... Bringing about the Kingdom of Heaven in your midst...

Through the tiniest of seeds, through what is hidden, through the good, and through the bad...

As there are a multitude of ways to experience the Kingdom of Heaven, to be a part of it, and to usher it in for others...

In ways you know and in ways you will come to know...

Because God's signs are everywhere and yet hidden from everywhere...

And when you let God be your vision, the hidden truths... will become... visible...

Which requires some investment on your part so that God can rise from within...

It requires sacrifice... It requires restraining from judgment... And it requires trust...

Trusting that God will reveal Godself in unique and mysterious ways... From places hidden and unknown. From places filled with life and throughout creation...

As it is God who continues to reveal the Kingdom of Heaven. In ways that are tangible and in ways beyond our comprehension.

And so, it is my prayer that God will be your vision... Leading you to look in places that are hidden so that you can find the light shining out... Amen.