

THE QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus said: "Follow me!" The man replied: "Lord let me bury my father first and then I will come and follow you. "Let the dead bury their dead but you go and proclaim the kingdom of God.

The Kingdom of God. We hear these words in the gospels from our Sunday readings all the time. The Kingdom of God. If you were asked to give an explanation about what the Kingdom of God is, how would you respond? What explanation would you give? Given that we don't speak so much in terms of kingdoms today—unless we live in Saudi Arabia. Is the notion of Kingdom even applicable anymore? What is Jesus trying to communicate?

The Kingdom of God is an essential element of the message of Jesus of Nazareth Jesus claims not only to come from God but to be Of God. God's Beloved Son. The One who refers to God as Father. Jesus is trying to communicate that God has not only created this earth and all that is in it and on it. God also has created a Kingdom that will never end, that will last forever. Now, is the Kingdom of God a place or is it a relationship? Jesus also refers to it as the Kingdom of Heaven and describes by means of analogies and metaphors and similes. The Kingdom of God is like.... The Kingdom of god is....

The most frequent image that Jesus uses to describe the Kingdom of God? A banquet of choice foods to which all have been invited and at which all are welcome—provided they all themselves to be clothed in the appropriate wedding garb that the Lord himself will provide. What garb? The wedding garments of Love, Truth, Goodness, Beauty, Unity, Forgiveness, Trust, Obedience, and Surrender. These are just some of the values (and virtues) found in the kingdom of God. By God's grace we can be clothed in this way and find ourselves invited and welcome guests in what Jesus calls the Kingdom. But only if we want to enter and only if we let him clothe us in these virtues. Mary once said: Let it be done to me as you say. Our response is to be the same? Did you know that? The question of the week.