

Reflections for 13th June 2021

2nd Sunday after Trinity

The smallest seed

There is a story about a young black boy growing up in South Africa in the 1940s, in the slums of a black township called Sophiatown. He tells the story like this:

"One day," he said, "I was standing in the street with my mother when a white man in a priest's clothing walked past. As he passed us he took off his hat to my mother. I couldn't believe my eyes – a white man who greeted a black working class woman!

That experience gave him hope that things could change in his country, and that there was a way in which people of all races could live together as equals, and that helped to inspire him to work for that vision – and to become a priest himself. I expect you've heard of him – his name is Desmond Tutu. His life could have taken other paths – he could have just tried to improve his own life, or, like many others, he could have turned to violence, or given in to bitterness or despair. But that simple act of a white man politely greeting his mother, was a crucial moment in shaping his life, and the huge influence he had on many other people.

Jesus told stories, to tell us something about the kingdom of God, and about faith. He told a story about seed, scattered on the ground, that can secretly sprout and grow, and prove to be fruitful when the harvest comes, and a story about the tiny little mustard seed, that can grow into a great big plant, like a tree.

We can never know when something very small that we say, or do, may lead to a big change in our own life, or in the life of someone else – a change for good, for us, and for other people. Our faith may feel no bigger than a tiny seed, but that can be enough to be part of something new, something fruitful, part of a big change – part of making the kingdom of God more real, in our lives, and in our world, today.

Revd John Waller

Loving God, who gives us every good thing
to use and share in your service:
help us to sow seeds of faith and hope
so that our lives may be fruitful
for the life of your kingdom
through Jesus Christ our Lord.
Amen.

Bible readings: Ezekiel 17. 22-24; 2 Cor. 5. 6-10, 14-17; Mark 4. 26-34

Story: Seeds and Stories (based on the gospel passage)