

February 1, 2008  
Friday of the Third Week of Ordinary Time

Readings of the day may be found on the following link:

<http://www.nccbuscc.org/nab>

2 Samuel 1:1-4a, 5-10a, 13-17

Psalm 51:3-4, 5-6a, 6bcd-7, 10-11

Mark 4:26-34

*"To what shall we compare the Kingdom of God, or what parable can we use for it? It is like a mustard seed that, when it is sown in the ground, is the smallest of all the seeds on the earth. But once it is sown, it springs up and becomes the largest of plants and puts forth large branches, so that the birds of the sky can dwell in its shade."*

This is a perfect gospel to reflect upon as we prepare for Lent, which is just 5 days away. What strikes me today is that it refers to the kingdom of God, not the individual person. It says to me that our repentance, our conversion is for the benefit of the community not just for each of us alone. Lately, I have been hearing this message more and more: our prayers and good works do not just transform us, they transform the world. During Lent this year I want to reflect on God's dream, God's desire for this world. And, in light of that I want to reflect on my part in all of it. What seeds have been planted in me that I need to nurture? What seeds do I need to plant in the world?

*Judge each day not by the harvest you reap but by the seeds you plant.*

--Robert Louis Stevenson