



JESUS SENDS OUT THE SEVENTY-TWO

(LUKE 10: 1-12, 17-20)

Luke presents today's Gospel in two parts. Firstly, Jesus commissions the seventy-two to go out into the villages to preach and teach. Secondly, they return from their mission full of the power of the Spirit, with great stories of their experiences.

Perhaps Jesus is beginning the process of preparing the Church for a life without his physical presence amongst them, a life after his resurrection. So he sends them out with great haste, they don't need to pack! Jesus tells them not to take a purse, a bag or sandals, and when they arrive into a village or house and are made welcome, to stay there and eat what the people prepare. Bring the peace of Christ into every home, heal the sick and accept hospitality when it is given. There is a strong warning that is left out of today's Gospel reading. Jesus tells them that the nature of what they are about to do will bring moments of hostility and rejection, and in many ways sending the seventy-two out is like sending lambs to wolves! If people reject these brave missionaries, they reject the one who sent them, Jesus Christ. But, whatever trials the seventy-two must have faced on these dusty byroads, they return with stories of Jesus' power: "Lord even the devils submit to us when we use your name."

The work of preparing the Church has begun and Jesus tells them that through their ministry, their names will be written in heaven. ■

SAY

"Sweetest Jesus,
Body and Blood most Holy,
be the delight and pleasure of
my soul,
my strength and salvation in all
temptations,
my joy and peace in every trial,
my light and guide in every
word and deed,
and my final protection in
death. Amen."

St Thomas Aquinas
(*The Aquinas Prayer Book*)

DO

The Church must constantly be in appreciation of the missionary work that has gone before us. Take the opportunity this week to read about the missionary life of a lay person or religious. What inspiration can you gather from their stories?



LEARN

"Only the certainty that the Crucified Christ lives on as the Risen Christ, glorified by God, gives us the solution to the riddle of Jesus as a person and makes the Church possible and real."

(Fr Hans Küng)

REFLECT

In recent times I've had the pleasure of visiting two Benedictine abbeys, Buckfast in Devon, England, and Glenstal in Limerick, Ireland. The rhythm of prayer where monks and their visitors gather five times a day to pray with scripture texts and to celebrate the Eucharist is both appealing and consoling to be a part of. But one of the most striking prayers is the prayer for the missionary Church. In other words, the prayer for the preachers and priests, the ministers, volunteers and workers in all capacities who work together to bring about the kingdom of God on earth.

Prayer is indispensable to the missionary life of the Church and if it were not for the prayers of other people, the work of the Church would not get done. Prayer is the first element and Jesus includes poverty and simplicity in today's Gospel as essential elements of a missionary Church.

A dear childhood friend of Pope St John Paul II said that the key to his spiritual life was his poverty, his austerity. It marked him in Poland during his work and ministry and it continued during his many years in the Vatican. If we are to be credible in our preaching, we must live in a simple way. Only then

can our preaching and teaching become attractive or even believable! So in sending the seventy-two out into the villages without a bag or sandals, Jesus was not a sadist trying to inflict pain on his loyal following. It was a message to the world that a Church borne out of prayer, simplicity and austerity has a lot to teach the world. The seventy-two returned and it is clear the venture to the villages has been a success. But we know that this great commissioning did not stop with the seventy-two. It was handed on to the wider Church, to you and me, so that we too might preach the Gospel to all creation. ■

ENTRANCE ANTIPHON

Your merciful love, O God,
we have received in the midst of your
temple.
Your praise, O God, like your name,
reaches the ends of the earth;
your right hand is filled with saving justice.

GLORIA

Glory to God in the highest,
and on earth peace to people of good will.

We praise you,
we bless you,
we adore you,
we glorify you,
we give you thanks for your great glory,
Lord God, heavenly King,
O God, almighty Father.

Lord Jesus Christ, Only Begotten Son,
Lord God, Lamb of God, Son of the Father,
you take away the sins of the world,
have mercy on us;
you take away the sins of the world,
receive our prayer;
you are seated at the right hand of the Father,
have mercy on us.

For you alone are the Holy One,
you alone are the Lord,
you alone are the Most High, Jesus Christ,
with the Holy Spirit,
in the glory of God the Father.
Amen.

COLLECT

O God, who in the abasement of your Son
have raised up a fallen world,
fill your faithful with holy joy,
for on those you have rescued from slavery
to sin
you bestow eternal gladness.
Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of
the Holy Spirit,
one God, for ever and ever.
Amen.

FIRST READING

Isaiah 66:10-14

A reading from the prophet Isaiah.

Rejoice, Jerusalem,
be glad for her, all you who love her!
Rejoice, rejoice for her
all you who mourned her!

That you may be suckled, filled,
from her consoling breast,
that you may savour with delight
her glorious breasts.

For thus says the Lord:
Now towards her I send flowing
peace, like a river,
and like a stream in spate
the glory of the nations.

At her breast will her nurslings be carried
and fondled in her lap.
Like a son comforted by his mother
will I comfort you.

And by Jerusalem you will be comforted
At the sight your heart will rejoice,
and your bones flourish like the grass.
To his servants the Lord will reveal his hand.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

PSALM

Psalm 65

Response:

Cry out with joy to God all the earth.

1. Cry out with joy to God all the earth,
O sing to the glory of his name.
O render him glorious praise.
Say to God: "How tremendous your
deeds!" (R.)
2. "Before you all the earth shall bow;
shall sing to you, sing to your name!"
Come and see the works of God,
tremendous his deeds among men. (R.)
3. He turned the sea into dry land,
they passed through the river dry-shod.
Let our joy then be in him;
he rules for ever by his might. (R.)
4. Come and hear, all who fear God.
I will tell what he did for my soul.
Blessed be God who did not reject my
prayer
nor withhold his love from me. (R.)

SECOND READING Galatians 6:14-18

A reading from the letter of St Paul to the
Galatians.

The only thing I can boast about is the cross
of our Lord Jesus Christ, through whom the
world is crucified to me, and I to the world.
It does not matter if a person is circumcised
or not; what matters is for him to become an
altogether new creature. Peace and mercy to
all who follow this rule, who form the Israel
of God.

I want no more trouble from anybody after
this; the marks on my body are those of Jesus.
The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with
your spirit, my brothers. Amen.

The word of the Lord.
Thanks be to God.

GOSPEL ACCLAMATION

Alleluia, alleluia!

I call you friends, says the Lord,
because I have made known to you
everything I have learnt from my Father.
Alleluia!

GOSPEL

Luke 10:1-12.17-20

(For shorter form, read between > <)

A reading from the holy Gospel according to
Luke.

>The Lord appointed seventy-two others
and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to
all the towns and places he himself was to
visit. He said to them, "The harvest is rich but
the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the
harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start
off now, but remember, I am sending you out
like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no
haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the
road. Whatever house you go into, let your
first words be, 'Peace to this house!' And if a
man of peace lives there, your peace will go
and rest on him; if not, it will come back to
you. Stay in the same house, taking what food
and drink they have to offer, for the labourer
deserves his wages; do not move from house
to house. Whenever you go into a town where
they make you welcome, eat what is set
before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and
say 'The kingdom of God is very near to you.'
< But whenever you enter a town and they do
not make you welcome, go out into its streets
and say, 'We wipe off the very dust of your
town that clings to our feet, and leave it with
you. Yet be sure of this: the kingdom of God is
very near.' I tell you, that on that day it will not
go as hard with Sodom as with that town."

The seventy-two came back rejoicing.
"Lord," they said, "even the devils submit
to us when we use your name." He said to
them, "I watched Satan fall like lightning
from heaven. Yes, I have given you power to
tread underfoot serpents and scorpions and
the whole strength of the enemy; nothing
shall ever hurt you. Yet do not rejoice that the
spirits submit to you; rejoice rather that your
names are written in heaven."

>The Gospel of the Lord.<

Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ.

PROFESSION OF FAITH

I believe in one God,
the Father almighty,
maker of heaven and earth,
of all things visible and invisible.

I believe in one Lord Jesus Christ,
the Only Begotten Son of God,
born of the Father before all ages.
God from God, Light from Light,
true God from true God,
begotten, not made, consubstantial with
the Father;

through him all things were made.

For us men and for our salvation
he came down from heaven,

(all bow during the next three lines)

and by the Holy Spirit was incarnate of the
Virgin Mary,
and became man.

For our sake he was crucified under
Pontius Pilate,

he suffered death and was buried,
and rose again on the third day
in accordance with the Scriptures.

He ascended into heaven
and is seated at the right hand of the Father.

He will come again in glory
to judge the living and the dead
and his kingdom will have no end.

I believe in the Holy Spirit, the Lord,
the giver of life,

who proceeds from the Father and the Son,
who with the Father and the Son is adored
and glorified,

who has spoken through the prophets.

I believe in one, holy, catholic and
apostolic Church.

I confess one Baptism for the forgiveness
of sins

and I look forward to the resurrection of the
dead

and the life of the world to come. Amen.

PRAYER OVER THE OFFERINGS

May this oblation dedicated to your name

purify us, O Lord,

and day by day bring our conduct
closer to the life of heaven.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

COMMUNION ANTIPHON

Taste and see that the Lord is good;
blessed the man who seeks refuge in him.

PRAYER AFTER COMMUNION

Grant, we pray, O Lord,
that, having been replenished by such great
gifts,

we may gain the prize of salvation
and never cease to praise you.

Through Christ our Lord. Amen.