

Discussion & Reflection Questions

Sunday 18th of June 2023 (Pentecost 3A)

Read: Matthew 9.35-10.8

³⁵ Then Jesus went about all the cities and villages, teaching in their synagogues, and proclaiming the good news of the kingdom, and curing every disease and every sickness. ³⁶ When he saw the crowds, he had compassion for them, because they were harassed and helpless, like sheep without a shepherd. ³⁷ Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few; ³⁸ therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.' ¹ Then Jesus summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits, to cast them out, and to cure every disease and every sickness. ² These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon, also known as Peter, and his brother Andrew; James son of Zebedee, and his brother John; ³ Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew the tax-collector; James son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; ⁴ Simon the Cananaean, and Judas Iscariot, the one who betrayed him. ⁵ These twelve Jesus sent out with the following instructions: 'Go nowhere among the Gentiles, and enter no town of the Samaritans, ⁶ but go rather to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. ⁷ As you go, proclaim the good news, "The kingdom of heaven has come near." ⁸ Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out demons. You received without payment; give without payment.

Discussion & Reflection Questions

1. What difference does replacing the word "but" in verse 37 with the word "and"?
2. If you were to pray a prayer based on Jesus' instruction to "ask the Lord of the harvest" - what sort of prayer would you pray?
3. God seems to have a pattern of working with "the few" - what examples of the "few" that God works in & through come to mind?
4. How do you feel about the idea that the few are sufficient & that you are one of the few?
5. Jesus is moved by compassion for the crowd? What sort of things "move" you?
6. The few are sent for the benefit of others not for their own recognition. How might God send you? Has God sent you already & in what ways are you able to be sent for the benefit of others?
7. What would it mean for you to learn what it takes for others to feel completely loved?

Prayer

Lord, we beseech you to keep your family, the Church, in continual godliness, that through your protection it may be free from all adversities, and devoutly given to serve you in good works, to the glory of your name; through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen.