



Daily Reflections

December 9, 2017

Scripture

Matthew 9: 35- 10: 8

Jesus went around to all the towns and villages,
teaching in their synagogues,
proclaiming the Gospel of the Kingdom,
and curing every disease and illness.

At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them
because they were troubled and abandoned,
like sheep without a shepherd.

Then he said to his disciples,
"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;
so ask the master of the harvest
to send out laborers for his harvest."

Then he summoned his Twelve disciples
and gave them authority over unclean spirits to drive them out
and to cure every disease and every illness.

Jesus sent out these Twelve after instructing them thus,
"Go to the lost sheep of the house of Israel.

As you go, make this proclamation: 'The Kingdom of heaven is at hand.'
Cure the sick, raise the dead,
cleanse lepers, drive out demons.

Without cost you have received; without cost you are to give."

Our Scripture Reflection

The harvest is incredibly abundant in our own day. With the rise of atheism, the epidemic of addictions, the breakdown of the family, etc., etc., people, whether they admit it or not, are in dire need of faith in Jesus. And that's where you come in. You have received your faith as a gift, are you willing to share your gift with others? How do you do that? You need no degree in theology. St. Francis gave the best advice: "Go out and proclaim the Good News and use words only when necessary."

Food for your Journey

The author Anne Lamott tells why she makes her teenage son, Sam, go to church ...

I make him go because I can ... I outweigh him by nearly 75 pounds. But that is only part of it. The main reason is that I want to give him what I found in the world, which is to say a path and a little light to see by. Most of the people I know who have what I want — which is to say, purpose, heart, balance, gratitude, joy — are people with a deep sense of spirituality. They are people in community, who pray, or practice their faith — people banding together to work on themselves and for human rights. They follow a brighter light than the glimmer of their own candle; they are part of something beautiful.

— Anne Lamott, "Why I make Sam go to church" in *Traveling Mercies: Some Thoughts on Faith*(Anchor, 2000), 100.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, During this holy time of the year, help me to enjoy my faith so much that I will want to share it with those whom I love. Amen.