July 7, 2019

Scripture

Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20
At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs
to every town and place he intended to visit.
He said to them,
"The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few;
so ask the master of the harvest
to send out laborers for his harvest.
Go on your way;
behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves.
Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals;
and greet no one along the way.
Into whatever house you enter, first say,
'Peace to this household.'
If a peaceful person lives there,
your peace will rest on him;
but if not, it will return to you.
Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you,
for the laborer deserves his payment.
Do not move about from one house to another.
Whatever town you enter and they welcome you,
eat what is set before you,
cure the sick in it and say to them,
'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.'
Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.'
Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand.
I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town."
The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name."
Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to 'tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

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**Our Scripture Reflection**

In today’s Gospel reading Jesus sends out the disciples on mission to proclaim the Kingdom of God. They are told that not everyone whom they encounter will be receptive. There are those who will close both their ears and hearts to the Good News. However, they must never take rejection personally or allow it to deter their mission. The mission must always go forward despite the cost.

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**Food for your Journey**

One day my friend, Jacob the baker, was visited by a deputation of elders. "Look, Jacob! We've known you for a long time. You're just Jacob the baker. Now everyone wants to ask you questions, and the children come to learn from you. What do you tell them?"

Jacob searched his mind for a door these men might pass through and then spoke. "I will be glad to tell you what I have been teaching the children, but first, you must all agree to put your fingers in your ears."

The men did as they were told and stood opposite Jacob, who began speaking. After a few minutes, the men waved and shouted, trying to get
"Jacob's attention. "Jacob, we can't hear what's being said when our fingers are in our ears!"

"That," answered Jacob, "is what I have been telling your children." Or as Jesus once said, "Ephphatha," ... "be opened." Amen.

--J. Walter Cross,

"In One Ear, Out the Other,"

Bradenton, Fla.

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**A Prayer from the Heart**

Dear God, So many in the world do not know You nor Your Son Jesus. Some worship science and technology as their gods. Many have fallen in love with stuff rather than You. Keep me faithful to Your call to witness to Jesus. May I never tire or become discouraged. Amen