



Daily Reflections

September 23, 2020

Scripture

Luke 9:1-6

Jesus summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the Kingdom of God and to heal the sick.

He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic.

Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there.

And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town,

shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them."

Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the Good News and curing diseases everywhere.

Our Scripture Reflection

Jesus calls His disciples together and gives them both power (Greek *dunamis*) and authority (Greek *exousia*). These are similar but distinct concepts:

Power: Greek *dunamis* means "power, might, strength, force ... ability, capability." It refers to the raw power needed to accomplish an action.

Authority: (Greek *exousia*) can refer to capability, might, power, ability, also, but when used with *dunamis* it is emphasizing " 'authority, absolute power, warrant' ... the power exercised by rulers or others in high position by virtue of their office, 'ruling power, official power.' "

Please note: Power and authority and not something they possess in and of themselves; they do not earn them. They are GIVEN by Jesus Himself for the purpose of empowering them to carry out the mission He is giving them.

They are to take nothing extra with them. Why? Because His Father will provide them with what they truly need, when they need it. They will learn to be dependent on Him.

Finally, rejection is inevitable. But they cannot allow it to deter them from their calling. The Gospel must and will go forward.

Food for your Journey

Early in our time in St. Louis, one of the many speakers (I can't remember who or when) mentioned the word "submission," which took me right back to Mrs. Stille's high school Latin class. I remembered that our English word submission is derived from the Latin meaning "under mission" or "under being sent." For the Church, EVERYTHING comes under mission. Mission is always the priority. Being sent forth in the name of Christ to introduce him to others is always the main thing. We have gotten distracted and forgotten to keep the main thing the main thing. It is time to call the Church back to a state of submission.

—Sue Hauptert-Johnson, "Holy Incubation," Ministry Matters, June 5, 2019.

ministrymatters.com. Retrieved July 22, 2019.

A Prayer from the Heart

Dear Jesus, You gave me the tremendous honor of being called and trusted by You to witness to You and Your Gospel. Keep me faithful and true to You and the work You have entrusted to me. May I bring You glory. Amen