

Your Names are Written in Heaven

14th Week of Ordinary Time- Luke 10: 1-12, 17-20

In last week's gospel Jesus set his sight on the Holy City, Jerusalem, the holiest place on the face of the earth for a devout Jew. His mission is not the annual sacrificial offering made in the holy city by pilgrims. This mission is one of self-sacrifice. Jesus knows that at the end of this journey he will face his passion and death. He also knows that his mission is God's will for the salvation of the world. It is his faithfulness to God's will that will bring peace to all.

Jesus' resolve in this week's gospel is to send his disciples ahead of him. Jesus' disciples are asked to go proclaim peace to each person, village and home. This is a peace that encompasses more than an absence of war and violent conflict. This is a peace that brings with it the security and well-being of knowing and appreciating that God is with us no matter what might befall us. This is the peace offered to us and to the world by the Savior.


Not surprisingly, the overall theme found in this week's readings is one of joy. The prophet Isaiah calls for those who love Jerusalem to rejoice in the thought that one day all the world would worship in the holy city. The psalmist speaks of the joy experienced by all creation given the power, majesty and goodness observed in the daily encounters with God's mercy and kindness.

Joy is also realized by those that Jesus sends out this week. The seventy-two returned rejoicing and proclaimed "**even the demons are subject to us because of your name.**" Jesus reminds them that although their work is important because "**the harvest is abundant but the laborers few**", this mission is powered by him. They alone do not possess the grace needed to do the work. "**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.**"

Is this not the same for us? Do we take the time to realize that we alone do not possess the power to do anything without the grace of God? Do we realize that we, too, have an obligation to proclaim the coming of Christ to those we encounter, at work, school, in the grocery store?

Do we rejoice with the same enthusiasm to the joy that is ours, not because of our own gifts and talents, but because those talents are God-given and expected to be used to promote God's Kingdom, not our own? Jesus' parting words to his disciples, to us are "**Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.**"

Blessings!


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