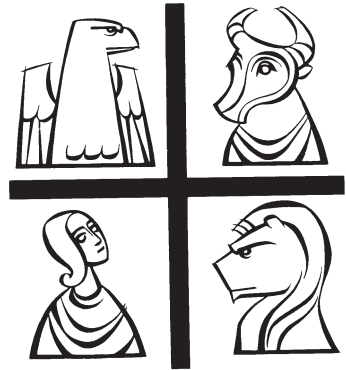


Reading Luke in Lent

Gospel of Luke 10:1–10:42



Jesus Sends Out the Seventy-Two

10:1 After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them on ahead of him, two by two, into every town and place where he himself was about to go.
2 And he said to them, “The harvest is plentiful, but the labourers are few. Therefore pray earnestly to the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into his harvest.
3 Go your way; behold, I am sending you out as lambs in the midst of wolves.
4 Carry no moneybag, no knapsack, no sandals, and greet no one on the road.
5 Whatever house you enter, first say, “Peace be to this house!”
6 And if a son of peace is there, your peace will rest upon him. But if not, it will return to you.
7 And remain in the same house, eating and drinking what they provide, for the labourer deserves his wages. Do not go from house to house.
8 Whenever you enter a town and they receive you, eat what is set before you.
9 Heal the sick in it and say to them, “The kingdom of God has come near to you.”
10 But whenever you enter a town and they do not receive you, go into its streets and say,
11 “Even the dust of your town that clings to our feet we wipe off against you. Nevertheless know this, that the kingdom of God has come near.”
12 I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town.

Woe to Unrepentant Cities

13 ‘Woe to you, Chorazin! Woe to you, Bethsaida!
For if the mighty works done in you had been done in Tyre and Sidon, they would have repented long ago, sitting in sackcloth and ashes.
14 But it will be more bearable in the judgment for Tyre and Sidon than for you.
15 And you, Capernaum, will you be exalted to heaven? You shall be brought down to Hades.
16 ‘The one who hears you hears me, and the one who rejects you rejects me, and the one who rejects me rejects him who sent me.’

The Return of the Seventy-Two

17 The seventy-two returned with joy, saying,
‘Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!’
18 And he said to them,
‘I saw Satan fall like lightning from heaven.
19 Behold, I have given you authority to tread on serpents and scorpions, and over all the power of the enemy, and nothing shall hurt you.
20 Nevertheless, do not rejoice in this, that the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven.’

Jesus Rejoices in the Father's Will

21 In that same hour he rejoiced in the Holy Spirit and said,
‘I thank you, Father, Lord of heaven and earth,
that you have hidden these things from the wise and understanding
and revealed them to little children; yes, Father, for such was your gracious will.
22 All things have been handed over to me by my Father,
and no one knows who the Son is except the Father,
or who the Father is except the Son and anyone to whom the Son chooses to reveal him.’
23 Then turning to the disciples he said privately,
‘Blessed are the eyes that see what you see!
24 For I tell you that many prophets and kings desired to see what you see,
and did not see it, and to hear what you hear, and did not hear it.’

The Parable of the Good Samaritan

25 And behold, a lawyer stood up to put him to the test, saying,
‘Teacher, what shall I do to inherit eternal life?’
26 He said to him, ‘What is written in the Law? How do you read it?’
27 And he answered,
‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your
strength and with all your mind, and your neighbour as yourself.’
28 And he said to him, ‘You have answered correctly; do this, and you will live.’
29 But he, desiring to justify himself, said to Jesus, ‘And who is my neighbour?’
30 Jesus replied,
‘A man was going down from Jerusalem to Jericho, and he fell among robbers,
who stripped him and beat him and departed, leaving him half dead.
31 Now by chance a priest was going down that road,
and when he saw him he passed by on the other side.
32 So likewise a Levite, when he came to the place and saw him, passed by on the other side.
33 But a Samaritan, as he journeyed, came to where he was,
and when he saw him, he had compassion.
34 He went to him and bound up his wounds, pouring on oil and wine.
Then he set him on his own animal and brought him to an inn and took care of him.
35 And the next day he took out two denarii and gave them to the innkeeper, saying,
“Take care of him, and whatever more you spend, I will repay you when I come back.”
36 Which of these three, do you think,
proved to be a neighbour to the man who fell among the robbers?’
37 He said, ‘The one who showed him mercy.’
And Jesus said to him, ‘You go, and do likewise.’

Martha and Mary

38 Now as they went on their way, Jesus entered a village.
And a woman named Martha welcomed him into her house.
39 And she had a sister called Mary, who sat at the Lord's feet and listened to his teaching.
40 But Martha was distracted with much serving. And she went up to him and said,
‘Lord, do you not care that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her then to help me.’
41 But the Lord answered her,
‘Martha, Martha, you are anxious and troubled about many things,

⁴² but one thing is necessary. Mary has chosen the good portion,
which will not be taken away from her.’

Reflection

The formation of the disciples by Jesus continues. First three potential followers learn the cost of discipleship. Then Jesus sends out 72 disciples to prepare the way for him. Their task is to announce the kingdom in word and deed. Their greeting of ‘Peace be to this house!’ echoes the angels who announce the Messiah’s birth, it will also be on the lips of those who welcome Jesus into Jerusalem and Jesus, himself, will speak peace when he greets his disciples after the resurrection. Though the warnings of what will happen to those who don’t respond are tough the disciples come back rejoicing because of what they have done. Continuing the formation of the disciples Jesus once again refers to children and in his prayer reveals himself to be the Son of the Father. Children are contrasted with the wise and in the next passage there is a wise lawyer who knows his scriptures but not how to apply them. In this familiar parable the lawyer asks ‘who is my neighbour?; at the end Jesus turns the question around and asks which of the character was the neighbour. The lawyer seems unable to say ‘the Samaritan’ but does understand that it is the action of mercy which is important rather than just the knowledge. Jesus’ final words, ‘You go, and do likewise’ includes all who hear this passage. This contrast between words and deed has a further twist in the story of Martha, who listens to his teaching, and Mary, who is distracted with much serving. The priority is to listen to Jesus.

- What are the things which hold us back from following Jesus?

Prayer

Eternal God,
you draw near to us in Christ
and make yourself our guest.

Amid the cares of our daily lives,
make us attentive to your voice
and alert to your presence,
that we may treasure your word above all else.

We ask this through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son,
who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit,
God for ever and ever.
Amen.

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