

**1. Read (Seek)** — Read the verses slowly and prayerfully several times. Write down any words or phrases that seem to stand out:

**2. Meditate (Find)** — Now begin to reflect on the verses and ask God what it means and how he wants to speak to you through the passage.  
**God what are you saying to me through this?**

**3. Pray (Ask)** — Respond from your heart to what God has been saying to you. **What do you want me to know?** Write down your prayer to him or record whatever he says to you.

**4. Contemplate (Taste)** — Be quiet before the Lord enjoying His presence. **How is God calling you to act in response to what he has shown you?**

[1] Hardon, Modern Catholic Dictionary pgs. 354-355  
[2] CCC 849  
[3] Divine Intimacy III, pg. 116  
[4] CCC 850  
[5] CCC 854  
[6] CCC 851  
[7] ibid.  
[8] CCC 855  
[9] Fernandez, In Conversation with God 4, 16.2  
[10] CCC 854

**FAST.  
FREE.  
FAITHFUL.**  
linktoliturgy.com



# Quick Connect

**What is the Gospel saying? Mark 6:7-13** — Pg. 1

**What is the Church saying Past and Present?** Pages 1-3

**What is God saying to you through this passage?** Page 4

## **Gospel Reading – Mark 6:7-13 – Roman Missal**

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over unclean spirits. He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick no food, no sack, no money in their belts. They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.” So they went off and preached repentance. The Twelve drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

## **Spiritual Reading – Office of Readings**

*From the beginning of the treatise On the Mysteries by Saint Ambrose, bishop*

We gave a daily instruction on right conduct when the readings were taken from the history of the patriarchs or the maxims of Proverbs. These readings were intended to instruct and train you, so that you might grow accustomed to the ways of our forefathers, entering into their paths and walking in their footsteps, in obedience to God’s commands. Now the season reminds us that we must speak of the mysteries, setting forth the meaning of the sacraments. If we had thought fit to teach these things to those not yet initiated through baptism, we should be considered traitors rather than teachers. Then, too, the light of the mysteries is of itself more effective where people do not know what to expect than where some instruction has been given beforehand. Open then your ears. Enjoy the fragrance of eternal life, breathed on you by means of the sacraments. We explained this to you as we celebrated the mystery of “the opening” when we said: Effetha, that is, be opened. Everyone who was to come for the grace of baptism had to understand what he was to be asked, and must remember what he was to answer. This mystery was celebrated by Christ when he healed the man who was deaf and dumb, in the Gospel which we proclaimed to you. After this, the holy of holies was opened up for you; you entered into the sacred place of regeneration. Recall what you were asked; remember what you answered. You renounced the devil and his works, the world and its dissipation and sensuality. Your words are recorded, not on a monument to the dead but in the book of the living. There you saw the levite, you saw the priest, you saw the high priest.

Do not consider their outward form but the grace given by their ministries. You spoke in the presence of angels, as it is written: The lips of a priest guard knowledge, and men seek the law from his mouth, for he is the angel of the Lord almighty. There is no room for deception, no room for denial. He is an angel whose message is the kingdom of Christ and eternal life. You must judge him, not by his appearance but by his office. Remember what he handed on to you, weigh up his value, and so acknowledge his standing. You entered to confront your enemy, for you intended to renounce him to his face. You turned toward the east, for one who renounces the devil turns toward Christ and fixes his gaze directly on him.

### **Missionaries: The Life of the Church – Lesson and Discussion**

*“send them out two by two”*

In the gospel today, Jesus sends out the apostles to be the first missionaries. Today, we are all called to be missionaries like the first apostles were.

**What is a missionary?** A missionary is “A person who is sent by Church authority to preach the Gospel, or help strengthen the faith already professed, among people in a given place or region. Essential to being a missionary, whether at home or abroad, is the desire to extend the Kingdom of Christ by preaching, Teaching, or other means of evangelization and catechesis.”[1]

**Who are called to be missionaries?** Those who are baptized into the Church are called to be missionaries. Jesus gave the authority over the apostles and through the apostles we are called to be obedient to Christ’s call of missionary work. On a universal church level, “Having been divinely sent to the nations that she might be ‘the universal sacrament of salvation,’ the Church, in obedience to the command of her founder and because it is demanded by her own essential universality, strives to preach the Gospel to all men’: “Go therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, teaching them to observe all that I have commanded you; and Lo, I am with you always, until the close of the age.”[2] On a personal level, “No one should think that the call to salvation is completely answered by taking care of our personal welfare; that would no longer be Christian holiness, which is realized in the charity of Christ who gave his life for the redemption of the entire human race, in the love of his heavenly Father, which embraces all men. Every Christian is expected, though not all in the same manner, to spread ‘the gospel of salvation’ to others.”[3]

**What is the nature (or mission) of the Church?** The very nature of the Church is mission work. Her mission is the same mission of Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit. “The Lord’s missionary mandate is ultimately grounded in the eternal love of the Most Holy Trinity: ‘The Church on earth is by her nature missionary since, according to the plan of the

Father, she has as her origin the mission of the Son and the Holy Spirit.’ The ultimate purpose of mission is none other than to make men share in the communion between the Father and the Son in their Spirit of love.”[4]  
 “By her very mission, ‘the Church...travels the same journey as all humanity and shares the same earthly lot with the world: she is to be a leaven and, as it were, the soul of human society in its renewal by Christ and transformation into the family of God.’ Missionary endeavor requires patience.”[5]

### **What motivates the Church to continue to inspire us to be**

**missionaries?** It is because the Bride of Christ wishes to draw all men to Him in every age. “‘for the love of Christ urges us on.’ Indeed, God ‘desires all men to be saved and to come to the knowledge of the truth’; that is, God wills the salvation of everyone through the knowledge of the truth. Salvation is found in the truth. Those who obey the prompting of the Spirit of truth are already on the way of salvation.”[6] However, as the catechism goes on to say that not everyone has been presented the truth fully and needs us as missionaries to bring about the truth. “Because she believes in God’s universal plan of salvation, the Church must be missionary.”[7] Along with bringing the truth to those who have not heard it or believe it, the Church also wishes that by missionary work we can bring back unity among Christians. “The Church’s mission stimulates efforts towards Christian unity. Indeed, ‘divisions among Christians prevent the Church from realizing in practice the fullness of catholicity proper to her in those of her sons who, though joined to her by Baptism, are yet separated from full communion with her. Furthermore, the Church herself finds it more difficult to express in actual life her full catholicity in all its aspects.’”[8]

**How do we do missionary work?** Our mission is to pass on the faith “...we must ask ourselves to what extent we pass on to our family and friends the most precious gift that we have – our faith in Christ. When we contemplate this incomparable gift we should feel moved to act, for the charity of Christ urges us on (Cf. 2 Cor. 5:14) to help build up around us a world which is more just and more human.”[9] Some of us may be called to go somewhere in the world and help refugees or the poorest of the poor, but there will be many of us who are called to be missionaries in our homes, workplaces, and communities. We may be called to bring awareness to those who are in most of need of God. We do mission work by bringing the faith to others. We go out into the world to proclaim the Gospel. It is also a long process that must involve Holy Mother Church to bring about the mission work of God. “It begins with the proclamation of the Gospel to peoples and groups who do not yet believe in Christ, continues with the establishment of Christian communities that are ‘a sign of God’s presence in the world,’ and leads to the foundation of local churches. It must involve a process of enculturation if the Gospel is to take flesh in each people’s culture. There will be times of defeat. ‘With regard to individuals, groups, and peoples it is only by degrees that [the Church] touches and penetrates them, and so receives them into a fullness which is Catholic.’”[10]