

25th Wednesday II- Luke 9: 1-6

PROVERBS 30:5-9

*Every word of God is tested;
he is a shield to those who take refuge in
him.*

*Add nothing to his words,
lest he reprove you, and you will be
exposed as a deceiver.*

*Two things I ask of you,
deny them not to me before I die: Put
falsehood and lying far from me,
give me neither poverty nor riches;
provide me only with the food I need;
Lest, being full, I deny you,
saying, "Who is the LORD?"
Or, being in want, I steal,
and profane the name of my God.*

PSALM 119:29, 72, 89, 101, 104, 163

*Remove from me the way of falsehood,
and favor me with your law.*

*The law of your mouth is to me more
precious
than thousands of gold and silver pieces.*

*Your word, O LORD, endures forever;
it is firm as the heavens.*

*From every evil way I withhold my feet,
that I may keep your words.*

*Through your precepts I gain discernment;
therefore I hate every false way.*

*Falsehood I hate and abhor;
your law I love.*

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.*

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Like the prophets and the disciples, we are called and sent. Church bells call us to worship and we are sent forth with singing and procession. But, we are ordinary people; we're not Jesus' chosen twelve.

Folks, like the disciples, are chosen especially and prepared before being sent out. But, God is not limited in how he chooses or how he sends. It is our loving duty and privilege to respond to His prompts in big things and little.

I can't even say "little" without reflecting on the "little way to holiness" as lived by St. Therese of Lisieux. She models finding the divine in the common and making the common divine.

St. Luke makes this commission of the apostles to carry on Jesus mission of salvation sound like a day at work. The disciples are given their work orders:

- Go proclaim.
- Go heal.
- Don't take this, don't take that.
- No money, no food, travel light.
- Don't waste time.
- Establish your base of operations.
- If your work isn't effective there, move on to where it will be.

At the end of these instructions and preparations we hear:

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

It hits me how matter-of-factly this was all reported. Just like it was on a daily work report.

September 23:

- preach- check
- drive out demons- check
- cure- check

It's made to sound so common. But, there is so much grand and divine going on.

These twelve men are living in a way they had never imagined. They are all called away from their chosen professions to follow this charismatic rabbi about the countryside.

They find Jesus to be more than a rabbi. They hear him preach about his heavenly Father. They are instructed in a divine will that is beyond their understanding. Imagine the "first being last and the last being first". They witness Jesus' miracles and healings. In turn, they are to do the same.

They are given authority over unclean spirits, spirits who normally would have the power to inflict ill upon humans.

They are to trust the providence of God... and the hospitality of man... in going forth without provisions.

Their very identity is given to them as imitating the person of Jesus Christ. Even when it is beyond understanding, the instruction to do as Jesus does is clear and empowering.

Their identity is our identity: to be a “community that is sent; we are to “travel light” and to proclaim the word in freedom and fearlessness. Like Jesus we are to confront the power of evil and serve as an agent of God’s healing power.”ⁱ

... and of course, make it all sound like it’s just a day at work.

It is finding the divine in the common and making the common divine.

We continue that day’s work when we, his chosen, his adopted, respond to his call, his call to his altar, where common bread and wine are transformed into the majesty of Jesus’ true presence, his body and blood, soul and divinity.

We come together into communion with that divine love. We then take and share that love into the commonness of our world.

For the Glory of God, may our daily report say that we shared the Good Word, stood up against evil and provided healing consolation for those in need.

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ⁱ John R. Donahue, S.J. and Daniel J. Harrington, S.J., *The Gospel of Mark, Sacra Pagina*, p. 194