

## 15<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

I don't know about you, but when travelling, I pretty much take everything with me, including the kitchen sink (as my husband likes to say). I am always well prepared! You never know what you might need along the way. In fact, I always take along my "back-up" shoes just in case something happens to my favorites.

In the very first line of today's Gospel, we are told, "Jesus called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics." They were to rely totally on God for their needs.

Can you imagine going on a really important trip and not taking anything with you? Yikes! No change of clothes allowed. No money permitted on this trip. I would be in a state of panic for sure! Even more unsettling would be knowing that where you were headed, not everyone would welcome you. Ah yes! Here lies the heart of the issue, fear of being rejected.

We are called to do the best we can in a given situation. Do we always have success in our endeavors? No, not always, especially when spreading the Good News of Jesus Christ to others. It is not easy to stand in the truth when you are rejected for what you say. There are times when God calls us to stand firm, proclaim the truth and give witness and testimony. Sometimes we will continue until we see the results of that testimony. Other times God gives us the freedom to move on. With the help of the Holy Spirit, we surrender these people to the Lord and emotionally let go. We then have the freedom to move on to the next part of our ministry.

How would you feel about shaking your feet at someone? Jesus instructs the disciples to "shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them." In other words, shake every part of those non-welcoming people off of you. Just let it go and move on to the next place.

Surrender those people to God and let go. I find this part extremely hard to do. Doubt will settle in and get the best of me. Did I do everything I could possibly do. What could I have done differently? Was there a better approach to use? This is why it is so important to realize, we don't do this alone. However, leaving the "dust" behind and moving on, is a powerful symbol of rejection to those you are leaving. Do not carry negative vibes with you, shake it off and move on!

Travelling light takes courage and a great deal of faith. While I can't guarantee the suitcase for my next trip will be any lighter, I can guarantee my faith goes with me wherever I go! God grant me the grace to trust in you!

