



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

FEAST OF SAINT LUKE, EVANGELIST

By Sr. Christine Hilliard, CSJ

Today's Gospel

The Lord Jesus appointed seventy-two disciples whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest. Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you. Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The Kingdom of God is at hand for you.'"

LUKE 10:1-9

Reflection

This day celebrates the feast of the Gospel writer Luke. We learn from him that before making any important decision, Jesus spends time in prayer, thus highlighting the significant place of prayer in one's life. His Gospel presents Jesus' sensitivity to the concerns of women and all who are oppressed in society. It becomes very clear in this gospel that Jesus came for everyone, not just an elite few.

As with other authors of Scripture, little is known about the person of Luke; however, his writing style suggests that he was a well-educated Greek.

In this passage Luke speaks of the mission/ministry of the "seventy-two." two. According to rabbinic teaching, there were seventy-two nations in the world so, again, Luke sees Jesus' disciples on an inclusive, universal mission. (We read in Exodus 24 that seventy elders ascend the mountain with Moses "and they beheld the God of Israel," connecting the disciples in Luke's Gospel to the rich Mosaic tradition.) Notably, these disciples are to travel light and not get sidetracked on their journey. They do not proclaim themselves or their own message; rather they prepare the way for Jesus' presence by curing the sick and bringing the "good news." In this way they are to go "ahead of him [Jesus]." There is no room for illusion in this ministry as Jesus describes the seventy-two like defenseless lambs among wolves -- thus, completely dependent on the LORD.



For Pondering

- What elements do you recognize in your own ministry/witnessing God's active presence in the world?
 - Where do you see God's hand in your ministry?
 - What is the benefit of ministering together with a community (whether more or less than seventy-two!)?
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For Prayer

*God of wisdom,
teach me the right words.
Teach me the very words
that will touch the hearts
and souls
of others.*

*God of wisdom,
teach me to relate to others
with words they need to hear,
with words
that will never
misguide.
Teach me how and when
to communicate
with the most potent gift
of silence.*

Amen.

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