



Center for Spiritual Development

Daily Reflections

Image by Christine Sponchia

ABUNDANT HARVEST

By Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

Jesus appointed seventy-two other 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; 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. ... Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the Kingdom of God is at hand."

LUKE 10:1-6, 10-11

On July 11, I was writing about a similar passage from the Gospel, though it was Mt. 9:37-38: "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few." In Luke's Gospel, he writes, "The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest."

The nuanced difference in Luke is that we're being sent out two by two and we're given the warning of being sent as lambs among wolves. What I find most intriguing about Luke's account is the not-so-subtle message that we, as disciples, are not the ones responsible for the reception of the gospel message we carry. This can be gleaned by the words: "Whatever town you enter, and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.'"

In a world where success is often equated with "measurable outcomes," I find this message reassuring -- that we are not to worry about the "success" of our desire to spread the Good News by how others receive our discipleship; rather, the emphasis is on our willingness to continue spreading the Good News in our daily lives through the people we encounter. This is our mission.

Lambs Among the Wolves

Walk confidently, O disciple of Christ. Heed not the worry of human-made success. Allow the message of a Loving God to fall gently upon those with ears to hear and hearts open to the Divine message of the Beloved.

Be wary, O companions along the way. Speak clearly the message, "the Kingdom of God is at hand." Do not fall victim to a war of words with those who seek to trick or block you from living the Gospel in your life.

Walk serenely, O disciple of Christ. When possible, invite friends to accompany you along the way. In communion, our manner and way of being will speak louder than any words we might utter.



Sidney, OH

Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

- Do you experience an inner freedom when pondering that living your life, as faithfully and best you can, is enough? Is there a sense of freedom in knowing your discipleship is not evaluated according to some random measure of success invented by humankind?
- How might you walk this day knowing that your actions and mannerisms might be the gospel message another person is seeking and longing to experience today?

For Prayer

*We pray for the grace to walk humbly with our God.
May our lives speak the gospel message
we hope it to speak in our thoughts, words, and actions.
Let us be people of the light to all we encounter today,
and especially those who find themselves in darkness.
Amen.*

If you enjoy reading our reflections and would like to make a donation towards this ministry, click the button below!

[Support Us Here](#)



Center for
Spiritual
Development

COMPANIONS ON THE
SACRED JOURNEY



***Do you know someone who would like to receive
Daily Reflections? Please forward freely!***

[Visit Website](#)

[714-744-3172](tel:714-744-3172)

[Join Mailing
List](#)



To “Unsubscribe” from the daily reflections while remaining on our general mailing list, please [email us](#). The unsubscribe function below will unsubscribe you from all emails from CSD. Please know we will never share your information.

[Unsubscribe slongbotham@csjorange.org](mailto:slongbotham@csjorange.org)

[Update Profile](#) | [Constant Contact Data
Notice](#)

Sent by thecsd@csjorange.org