

July 6, 2025

Daily Reflections



HARVEST!

By Sister Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

An Excerpt from Today's Gospel

At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others 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. ..." The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to 'tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you. Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

LUKE 10:1-4, 17-20

Reflection

In Luke's gospel we hear of Jesus appointing 72 people to go out ahead of him. It is a striking moment because it is steeped in spiritual meaning for us. While Jesus is preparing the way for the spread of the Good News, he is inviting these 72 to become messengers and proclaimers of peace and healing as the Kingdom of God is at hand.

Jesus' plea that the harvest is abundant though the laborers are few could be echoed today as well. It is a call for each of us to take stock of our own discipleship and assess how we're doing. One twist on this story is that Jesus sent them out two by two; thus, we need not go it alone! We are called to be faithful witnesses to our faith and to put our faith into action as part of the communities we serve.

The image of us (and the 72) as lambs among the wolves never ceases to amaze me. It causes me to pause and not go naively through life; rather, you and I need to be focused and attuned to what might be working against our message of hope, love, and healing. How might we counter these obstacles in a way that attracts others to turn toward God and life in Christ?

At the end of this gospel passage, Jesus affirms their mission and the "success" they have had. He couches this in a way that is a reminder that our joy comes not so much from our accomplishments; rather, the joy we experience comes from knowing we belong to God and that we are loved beyond our ability to even take it in.

We are each called to be a part of the harvest; where we are called varies. It is in the workplace, the home, the neighborhood and perhaps on a more global scale. What is important is that we listen to the Spirit within and around us and seek to harvest what is ours to harvest – day in and day out.

Harvest Call

O God of the harvest, may my words and actions mirror the generosity I experience in you. Let me not toil in lands already harvested. Instill in me a desire to seek those fields of plenty that abound everywhere.

O God of the harvest, may the joy within my heart be poured out upon the land where peace, faith, hope, and love have not found roots. Let me be an instrument of your peace.

O God of the harvest, may I seek out those most in need of your presence in their lives. Remove any obstacles that keep me from where you most want me to go.



Sidney, OH
Photo by Sr. Jayne Helmlinger, CSJ

For Pondering

Pause a moment and reflect on where you might be called to “harvest.” How and where are you being called to spread the Good News?

What might be a “stretch” for you in terms of “harvesting” in new ways? In new places? With new people?

For Prayer

*O God of the harvest,
we desire to be your disciples in this, our time and place.
May we have the grace and courage to respond to your call
to harvest in new fields and in new and unexpected ways.*

Amen.

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