

Gospel:

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee, and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas, and Matthew the tax collector; James the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.' Matthew 9:36-10:8

Gospel Reflection:

Today's Gospel tells us that Jesus shares his mission to proclaim the kingdom of heaven with his disciples. He can see that the people are stressed, that they are struggling and that they are looking for help. He is filled with compassion for them, however, he doesn't just feel sorry for them, he is also compelled to take action.

Jesus gathers together his twelve disciples, his closest friends, and sends them out with instructions, not only to teach and share his message of love with the people, but also to care for them. Jesus asks them to offer help, support and to heal the people. Jesus asks them to do it all for free, without asking for anything in return.

Jesus also instructs the disciples to ask God, (the landowner) in prayer to send them more people (workers) to join in with them in their mission, to follow Jesus and to share his love with others.

Jesus sent out the apostles in pairs to preach, teach, and heal. This was their "apprenticeship" before Jesus left them to return to the Father. Just as Jesus sent his disciples to continue his work and mission, so too the Church is sent by Jesus. We are also sent by Jesus to play our part in this mission to bring the kingdom of heaven to earth with our love, our care and our compassion for others.

clothe yourself
with **COMPASSION,**
KINDNESS,
humility,
gentleness, and
patience.
colossians 3:12b

Challenge:

Sometimes we are the people who are in need of help. Sometimes we are the people who can help others.

Can you think of a time when you saw that someone needed help or was worried about something? How did you feel? What did you do?

To spread the message of Jesus, we are called to do what we can to love and help other people, especially our family and friends. When we see a problem, we are asked not just to feel sorry for the person who is sad, worried, ill or struggling, but like Jesus, we are called to take some action to help.

What will you do this week to share God's love and to show compassion to those around you?

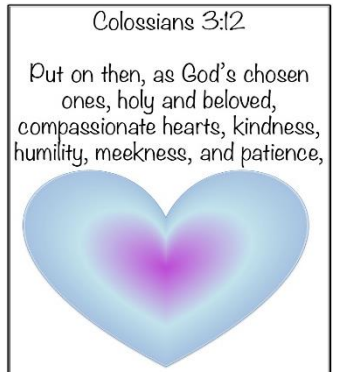


Let us Pray:

Lord God, You are full of compassion and love for us, your children.

Please give us the strength we need to reach those around us.

Help us to be compassionate to our friends at school and our family at home, showing kindness in all that we do, always reflecting God's love in our lives. Amen



Blessing:

The LORD bless you
and keep you,
the LORD make his face shine on you and be gracious to you,
the LORD turn his face toward you and give you peace.

Numbers 6:24-26