

Cycle B 15th Sunday in Ordinary Time
Sunday July 15th, 2018

I had the great privilege many times to be in Appalachia and witness the street preaching of Father Beiting. The street preaching would take place in the evenings on town squares, street corners and in the middle of apartment complexes. A number of people would come out and listen to the message of Father Beiting. What did he preach that so captivated the people? He talked about the love of God for all his people, the mercy of Jesus, and give a real life story about someone who came to know Jesus and his church and turned away from a life of dissipation. Occasionally there would be a few hecklers, but they would leave when they heard Father Beiting talk even more passionately about the love of God. Father Beiting always concluding his preaching with a special blessing that Jesus would be welcomed to come and reign in the hearts of those who heard the message. Father Beiting saw as his primary duty the necessity of preaching the Gospel to the people of God.

Today we hear Jesus sending out the 12 two by two and He gave them authority over unclean spirits. Those unclean spirits were powerless when confronted with the power of the **Word**. Jesus told the 12 to take nothing for the journey. Jesus did not want them to be slowed down by things because there was an urgency to proclaim the Good News. This urgency is because Jesus would only be with them for a short time. Also, taking nothing taught the Apostles to trust in

the providence of God and not to be worried about worldly concerns. Today there is still an urgency to preach the Gospel as we know **neither the hour nor the day of the Lord's return.** (Matthew 25:13)

Jesus told the 12 **“Wherever you enter a house stay there until you leave. Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.”** Jesus is showing us here that some will accept the Gospel message and for those that do we continue to **accompany** them on the journey of faith. For those who do not accept the Gospel message we are to move on and not worry ourselves because we were faithful to the Lord's Command. St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta frequently said, **“God never asks us to be successful, just faithful.”** We are simply seed planters. Like in the parable of the sower, **some seed fell on a path, rocky ground, and among thorns, while some seed fell on rich soil.** (Mark 4: 1-9) Our duty is to plant the seeds, whereas it is up to the individual to freely respond or not respond to the invitation of the Lord.

Today the prophet Amos gives all of us encouragement as he called himself a shepherd a dresser of sycamores. The dresser of sycamores means he was a gardener. Amos would have been an ordinary everyday person like us. He would not have been part of the so called company of prophets. The Lord took Amos from following the flock and instructed him to, **“Go prophecy to my people**

Israel.” Thanks be to Jesus Christ we are the new people of Israel. We are all **prophets**. By virtue of our baptism we are anointed priest, **prophet** and king. The common priest of the baptized is oriented toward our own holiness and living the Truth. **As prophets we all are to share the Good News of the Truth of God.** And as king, each one of us has the responsibility to direct people to God.

What is it that we are to prophesy? A simple and effective message is: **That we are all beloved sons, and daughters of our Father in heaven. He is intimately concerned with each and every human person on this earth. We know this because He sent His Son Jesus who preached, taught, and healed. He suffered and died for each and every one of us. He rose from the dead and He ascended into heaven, and He sent the Holy Spirit to lead and guide us. God is perfect mercy and He wants us to experience His Ocean of Mercy.**

Father Beiting tirelessly preached the love of God. This brief message truly expresses the Love of God for each and every person on this earth. Some people will accept this message, and some people will reject this message. Our duty is to be faithful to sharing the message of God's love.