

(Food for thought: Gospel: Mark 6: 7-13.)



“Being Sent”

The Scriptures speak to us today about election, about being chosen by God to be His instruments and witnesses, and about putting our trust in His presence and power to accomplish our mission.

The Twelve were sent out on their mission of preaching repentance and conversion with strict orders to take nothing with them except a walking stick...again it was clearly the Lord's way of saying: "Trust me!"

The walking stick can be a powerful image of the gift of faith that we receive in baptism. We make our journey supported by this gift. And God reminds us over and over again: "my grace is

sufficient for you..." We tend to want to clutter up our lives and carry a lot of extra baggage - just in case - because we are always tempted to think that we are to succeed because of our effort, our resources. It is hard for us to let go - really hard for us to trust God totally. Often we think that our faithfulness - our effectiveness as disciples - is the result of our own prayers and good works. We begin to grow proud and independent. That's when we get into trouble; it is then that the dark moments of failure and weakness, of doubt and fear come.

To be consistently persons of faith who take seriously - in all circumstances - that promise, we must be constantly nourished by Word and Sacrament. We come together to the Table always conscious of our frailty, our infidelity, our selfishness and pride. We come as

pilgrims and sinners. But we come as persons aware that we have been sealed with the Spirit, persons redeemed and forgiven by the blood of Christ.



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