

. Luke 10:1-20/Pentecost 9/Series C/7 July 2019

Central Thought: Apostles' names are written in heaven.

Goal: With the help of the Holy Spirit bring the people to knowledge of their sin and depravity. Bring them to salvation by causing the people to repent of their sin and turn from unrighteous.

Malady: Freed from sin we continue to fall into sin ignoring the freedom given to us through the Gospel.

Means: Proclaim God's saving work, His gifts, to us through Christ Jesus our Lord and Savior.

Theme: The sending and receiving of the 72.

Introduction:

Saints in Christ, purchased and won from all sin, from death, and from the power of the devil, not with gold or silver, but with Christ's holy, precious blood, and with his innocent suffering and death: Grace, mercy, and peace be to you from God our Father, and our Lord Jesus Christ. The Inspired Word of God comes to us today from the Gospel according to Saint Luke chapter 10.

Today's text is the historical account of the day Jesus sent out 72 disciples to give His gifts unto those held in the bondage of sin.

In our Gospel lesson for today the seventy-two sent out by Jesus were merely a foretaste of the feast to come, a shadow of a coming reality. Jesus sent them out to heal diseases, cast out demons from the possessed, and to announce that the Kingdom of God was near. Indeed, these were miraculous events. But, they paled in comparison to the gifts to come. These events occurred before the ultra-significant events, the pivotal events, of **Passion Week**, of **Resurrection Day**, and of **Ascension Day**. The 72 went to certain cities in Israel to cast out demons. Significant yes; yet, those miracles were shadows of the great power and authority that Jesus gave to His apostles after his Resurrection when he told them to go and baptize all Nations. Trinitarian baptism not only cast the devil out from sinful human beings, but filled them with the gift of the Holy Spirit.

God gave the 72 power to heal physical diseases. This too was just a foretaste of the feast to come when Jesus gave His apostles the authority and duty to carry out His New Testament, the medicine of His precious body and blood that heals eternal diseases and gives the forgiveness of sin.

The 72 announced the drawing nigh of the Kingdom of God. That announcement was a shadow of the authority Jesus gave His apostles when He ordained them to go forth with the actual keys of the Kingdom of God and the command to let some in and keep others out, saying to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit: whoever's sins you forgive, they are forgiven; whoever's sins you retain, they are retained." Today the Church uses this authority within the Office of the Keys.

There is no doubt Jesus gave miraculous authority to the 72. Witnessing the miracles brought responsibility. What about those cities who witnessed God's miracles; those who saw the signs and wonders? Scripture says Korazin and Bethsaida saw greater miracles than Tyre or Sidon. **Woe to them for not repenting and believing.**

But how much more shall I say 'Woe to you' for you saw signs and wonders even greater than Korazin and Bethsaida and still do you doubt. **In baptism you received a new birth, the Holy Spirit, and God's own Name.** Yet, when hardship fell upon you, you doubted God's love for you. You said something like, "If God is so great, where is He now? Where's my rescue and salvation?" How often you treated the Lord's Supper as a vain thing by receiving in your mouth the very body and blood of our God Jesus Christ only to use that same mouth to gossip and slander your Christian brother or sister. You received Absolution from the mouth of Christ's servant yet your hard heart did not believe in it for you continue to hold grudges. Who can believe that God forgave them and yet not forgive another?

Call upon the HS to show you the Law. Ask the HS to make you aware of your sin. Ask the HS to make a contrite heart within you. Confess your sin. Repent of your wicked ways. There is no other way than Jesus' way. Turn from your own way, the way of the World, and Satan's way, unto God's way. Turn to Jesus because he is gracious and loving. Turn to him and receive his gifts once more. Jesus died for your sin, for your doubt, for your unbelief. Today is not a day of condemnation. Because of God's love toward us fulfilled through Jesus, today is the day of salvation. Jesus redeemed you from your sin. You are forgiven. You are free. The greater signs of the New Covenant prove it. You are baptized and no one can take that from you. There is no identity theft when it comes to being a marked child of God. You were washed in the water that united you to Jesus' death - and if you are united to his life-giving death, how can you not also be united to the life-giving life of him who rose from the dead? You live when you drown your old sinful nature in the repentance of Confession and are raised to new life again with the living voice of Jesus in the Absolution.

Today the living Lord himself calls you to his Table, His Supper, to give you the forgiveness and strength you need to continue in life. He bids you to leave your way of death and instead receive his very life-blood. He bids you to leave the deeds of your sinful flesh behind and instead be filled with his Flesh for the forgiveness of sins.

God continues to bless us with the same gifts He gave to the 12, the 72, St. Luke, and all the Saints thereafter. They clung to God's gifts the entirety of their earthly lives. You honor St. Luke and all the saints when you imitate them and join with them in performing that highest worship of God: receiving the His gifts. God continuously blesses us with the fruits of Jesus' cross, gifted to you, at his Table, baptism, Holy Scripture, Confession and Absolution, and freedom from sin, death, and the devil.

Yes you are a free citizen of the greatest nation on earth. Even more, you are a marked citizen of God's Kingdom; a child adopted into His heavenly household.

In the Name of the Father and of the + Son and of the Holy Spirit. Amen.

USED:

7 July 2019, Grace, Western Springs, IL

Hymns: LSB

a. O - 533

b. HOD - 827

c. CL - 549

d. COM - 547

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