

(Food for thought: Gospel Luke 10:1-12,  
17-20)

## Travelling Light



The seventy-two are Jesus' forerunners. They are his ambassadors. The first words they are to speak are words of peace: "Peace to this household." Their presence and their words immediately reflect the One who sent them, whom Luke reminds us from the beginning of his Gospel, is the One who brings us peace with God and all men and women.

A harvest just doesn't happen - it requires work. "Church" doesn't just happen... it doesn't just pop up out of ground. All of the different components which make up our Church require work, support, planning, tender care, patience - and yes, honest dialog.

We live in a world of violence - violence which touches every corner of the planet. We see hundreds of thousands of displaced refugees searching for a home, and watch in abject horror as hate crimes unfold into the loss of innocent lives.

But violence can also take shape in how we use our words. This is true not only in the politics of the world around us, but also within our church. We love to label one another: "conservative, liberal, traditionalist, progressive." We talk "at" one another, not "with."

*Traveling light* means speaking the word of peace - not of violence; it means living out the words we speak with sincerity and brutal honesty. We must transform those words into action.

Henri Nouwen reminds us of something very significant about the use of words:

*“Words are important. Without them our actions lose meaning. And without meaning we cannot live. Words can offer perspective, insight, understanding, and vision. Words can bring consolation, comfort, encouragement and hope. Words can take away fear, isolation, shame, and guilt. Words can reconcile, unite, forgive, and heal. Words can bring peace and joy, inner freedom and deep gratitude. Words, in short, can carry love on their wings. A word of love can be the greatest act of love. That is because when our words become flesh in our own lives and the lives of others, we can change the world. Jesus is the word made flesh. In him speaking and acting were one.”*

