

Sunday 4th July 2021

Fifth Sunday after Trinity



Today's Gospel reading: Mark 6: 1-13

Listen to the Gospel of Christ according to St Mark
Glory to you, O Lord

He left that place and came to his home town, and his disciples followed him. On the sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, 'where did this man get all this? what is this wisdom that has been given to him? what deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?' And they took offence at him. Then Jesus said to them, 'Prophets are not without honour, except in their home town, and among their own kin, and in their own house.' And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two, and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff; no bread, no bag, no money in their belts; but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, 'Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.' So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons, and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

This is the Gospel of the Lord.
Praise to you, O Christ

Two important things to notice in our gospel reading again today!

Firstly, the people in Nazareth just couldn't see God at work among them in Jesus. They just saw the familiar young man, Jesus, who lived down the street and was a carpenter like his dad. Nothing special about him!

It is often difficult for us to see people we think we know as they take on a new role and this makes it hard sometimes for those who are called to ministry to carry out that ministry amongst people who have known them for a long time. Jesus's neighbours in Nazareth didn't notice God at work among them.

We need to be more alert than they were and to watch for God at work in our world! We need to look out for "God sightings". Examples of God sightings might be a big brother or sister leaving friends to take care of a younger sibling, or a young person helping a person who needs shopping or company anything where we see God at work in people and situations. If we are looking out, we will see these all the time – it happens more than you might think! Children are often more open to noticing the gifts God gives us and noticing people sharing those gifts with those who need them.

🤔 Can you think of some examples of "God sightings"?

🎉 Let's celebrate and support all the places we see God at work in the world today!

Secondly, we hear about Jesus sending his disciples out to tell people about God's love. Jesus couldn't manage to do it all alone, so he had appointed twelve followers, or disciples, to be his special helpers and asked them to travel around the towns and villages, as they had been doing with him. He sent them out in pairs with some clear instructions. He told them to take very little with them!

🤔 Have another look at the gospel reading and notice what Jesus told them to take – or, rather, what NOT to take with them!

I don't know about you, but when I am going away on holiday, I find it very difficult to cut down the amount of stuff I take! All the things I *might* need take up an awful lot of room and make my case very heavy!


🤔 Think about what you would want to take with you on a journey.

What do you think you would need to take if you were going out to tell people about Jesus? You could make a list!

Now look again at Jesus's words and see what you *really* need! Can you cross some things off your list?

What we learn today is that we don't really need any special equipment to be God's people and to share God's love! Jesus asks us to travel light in his service! We are

not to be concerned with what we take, but with the message we have for people about Jesus. If our hearts are full of God's love, that is all we need!

 A prayer for this week:

Dear Lord, thank you for packing our hearts with your love. We are ready to share your love with those around us. Amen.

P.S. Don't forget to look out this week for God sightings too!

Scroll down for some puzzles and colouring pages:

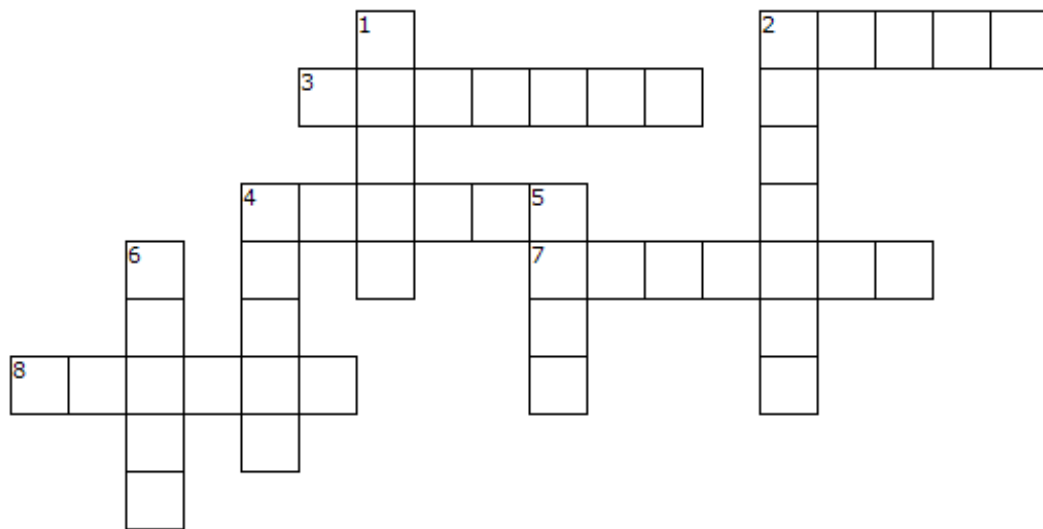
Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Mark 6:8 (NIV)

Based on Mark 6:6-13 (NIV)



Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two.
Mark 6:7 (NIV)



ACROSS

2. A stick or cane carried as an aid in walking or climbing
3. A trip over a great distance
4. The number of disciples Jesus chose
7. A community where people live that is smaller than a town or city
8. To deliver a sermon; to proclaim the Word of God

DOWN

1. Coins or bills used to buy things
2. Shoes consisting of a bottom part held onto the foot by straps
4. To instruct, train, or give knowledge to others
5. Something that is bad or wrong; wicked
6. A basic food made from flour, water, and yeast mixed together and baked

MONEY	PREACH	BREAD	EVIL	TEACH
JOURNEY	TWELVE	VILLAGE	SANDALS	STAFF

Jesus Sends Out the Twelve

These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Mark 6:8 (NIV)

Each number represents a letter of the alphabet. Substitute the correct letter for the numbers to reveal the coded words.



Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two.
Mark 6:7 (NIV)

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23	24	25	26
Z	S	P	I	B	C	J	O	E	A	H	Y	V	R	Q	G	F	N	T	D	W	U	X	L	K	M

1. 13-4-24-24-10-16-9 _____
2. 14-9-3-9-18-19 _____
3. 19-9-10-6-11-4-18-16 _____
4. 11-8-22-2-9 _____
5. 3-14-9-10-6-11 _____
6. 11-9-10-24 _____
7. 7-8-22-14-18-9-12 _____
8. 2-10-18-20-10-24-2 _____
9. 2-19-10-17-17 _____
10. 21-9-24-6-8-26-9 _____

WELCOME	TEACHING	HEAL	PREACH	SANDALS
VILLAGE	JOURNEY	HOUSE	STAFF	REPENT



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