

livingtheword

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Hearing and Living the Sunday Readings

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading 1 Is 66:10-14c

Thus says the LORD: Rejoice with Jerusalem and be glad because of her, all you who love her; exult, exult with her, all you who were mourning over her! Oh, that you may suck fully of the milk of her comfort, that you may nurse with delight at her abundant breasts! For thus says the LORD: Lo, I will spread prosperity over Jerusalem like a river, and the wealth of the nations like an overflowing torrent. As nurslings, you shall be carried in her arms, and fondled in her lap; as a mother comforts her child, so will I comfort you; in Jerusalem you shall find your comfort.

When you see this, your heart shall rejoice and your bodies flourish like the grass; the LORD's power shall be known to his servants.

Reading 2 Gal 6:14-18

Brothers and sisters: May I never boast except in the cross of our Lord Jesus Christ, through which the world has been crucified to me, and I to the world.

For neither does circumcision mean anything, nor does uncircumcision, but only a new creation. Peace and mercy be to all who follow this rule and to the Israel of God.

From now on, let no one make troubles for me; for I bear the marks of Jesus on my body.

The grace of our Lord Jesus Christ be with your spirit, brothers and sisters. Amen.

Reflection Process / Questions

- **10 mins Reading** - underline a word or idea that strikes you
 - **10 mins Writing** - write what you have heard, write your response to a reflection question(s) that attracts your attention
 - **10 mins Sharing / Praying** - share with a friend or pray to God about livingtheword you have heard.
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- Isaiah provides a very intimate feminine image of a baby being comforted at a Mother's breast to symbolise the return of exiles back to Jerusalem. It is one of the most cherished images of God's love for sinful humanity. Some commentators share this as a feminine image in the Old Testament to the Compassionate Father in the Prodigal Son Gospel story. Try replacing 'Jerusalem' with your own name. What feelings are stirred within you? If the Old Testament 'Jerusalem' is now the 'Church', which sacraments provide us with this tender grace of love?
 - St Paul leads us into a deeper discovery of the meaning of the cross. The cross does not only give us Jesus' forgiveness of sins but reveals a rule and 'life-style'. Christian disciples are now drawn into a way of living that reveals they are 'crucified to the world'. Many worldly attractions are no longer top priorities. My life direction and purpose is now in Jesus and for others. Consider what your deepest desires are and what you are really living for? If 1000 people lived your 'life-style' what sort of world would be emerging?

Gospel Lk 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9

At that time the Lord appointed seventy-two others whom he sent ahead of him in pairs to every town and place he intended to visit. He said to them, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.

Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves. Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals; and greet no one along the way. Into whatever house you enter, first say, 'Peace to this household.' If a peaceful person lives there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.

Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is offered to you, for the laborer deserves his payment. Do not move about from one house to another. Whatever town you enter and they welcome you, eat what is set before you, cure the sick in it and say to them, 'The kingdom of God is at hand for you.' Whatever town you enter and they do not receive you, go out into the streets and say, 'The dust of your town that clings to our feet, even that we shake off against you.' Yet know this: the kingdom of God is at hand. I tell you, it will be more tolerable for Sodom on that day than for that town."

The seventy-two returned rejoicing, and said, "Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name." Jesus said, "I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky. Behold, I have given you the power to 'tread upon serpents' and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you.

Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven."

- Jesus sent out 72 people - the number of known nations in the world. He urgently seeks to bring people to God - and to dethrone Satan's power in the world. Have you ever thought of a 'mission' project that is bigger than yourself and requires others to help? What would you need to do to start the project? Have you been attracted to a project? What happened?
- Take no money, no bag, no extra shoes, don't be distracted by talking to anyone on the way to your job, and don't jump from house to house to seek comfort. A serious challenge! Disciples are to be detached from any security other than their relationship with Jesus. They only resource they bring is 'peace', and working and praying in Jesus' name to 'cure the sick'. Can you identify anyone who lives this 'absolute trust in God lifestyle' as an example for you? Has their inspiration changed anything in you?
- Jesus warns disciples to be ready for rejection. Peace not anger and argument are trademark signs of christian disciples. Have you had the courage to witness to Christ? Have you shared ideas and projects that were not 'received'? Shaking of the dust was not done individually but by a 'pair'. Why do you think it was important for Jesus to send out disciples in 'pairs'? Who could you have as a 'pair' to journey and share with - especially in the rejection moments?
- Jesus did not delay sending people out on mission until the disciples were complete and perfect. I need more formation. I'm not good enough. I'm not confident enough. I'm too broken and sinful are easy responses to not engage in mission and ministry. Sometimes we need prayer-filled focus. What is God asking of me and what is the next step in 'doing it'? 'Behold, I have given you the power.....
- What is one action that you will do to 'livetheword' this week?