

July 15, 2018

15th Sunday in Ordinary Time

May kindness and truth meet in us!

Amos 7:12-15

Psalm 85:9-14

Ephesians 1:3-14

Mark 6:7-13

Amaziah, a prophet in the king's court, attempts to chase Amos away from Bethel. Amos makes it clear that he was a shepherd who didn't belong to the company of the king's prophets but was directly called by God and told to prophecy to the people of Israel.

The Psalmist reminds his readers that Lord proclaims peace to his faithful ones and will give them his benefits. In this context, kindness and truth, as well as justice and peace, shall meet while salvation guides the steps of those who follow the will of the Lord.

God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ is to be constantly praised as we are graced in Christ with every spiritual blessing. We are to be holy, blameless, and full of love and through him are adopted sons and daughters. It is through his blood that we have been redeemed and our sins forgiven and we are given the wisdom to understand that all things in heaven and on earth are to be one under Christ's headship.

Jesus summoned the twelve and sent them off two by two. They were instructed to take nothing extra and to stay where they are welcomed. They expelled many demons, anointed and healed the sick, and worked many cures.



**The Father be praised,
For sending blessings through the Son
And with the promise of the Holy Spirit.**

Jesus instructed the disciples as he sent them out and indicated they would experience acceptance and also rejection, hence, they needed to be ready to respond to both. Amos was called by God and he experienced the rejection of the prophets of the king's court. Regardless of acceptance or rejection the psalmist reminds us that peace comes to those who remain steadfast and faithful. Paul writes that all things in heaven and on the earth are to be summed up in Christ according to the will of the Father.

When Jesus sent out the Twelve two by two he confidently instructed them to preach repentance and anoint and heal the sick and drive out demons to make the people aware that a New Age was upon them, one full of healthful moral and physical life. The spiritual power of physical health and sanity poured out upon the people from the abundance of an unseen world. It was Jesus' vision of the Kingdom that changed the thinking of people up to this very day. The hope of realizing this vision has been connected from generation to generation by the message of the Gospel, the immortal personality of Jesus, and the faithful who pronounced it.

When Jesus walked the earth he spoke confidently of the Kingdom of Heaven, with all of its spiritual power, as being at hand to the people of his time. Is it not then present to us in this day and age since the words of life in Scripture insure us that it has never faded away?

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