

Jesus Sends His Disciples Out on Mission (Luke 10:1-9, 16)

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Guidelines: Protect confidentiality and follow the leader's prompts.

Ignatian Meditation Process: Ignatius chose a Gospel reading on Jesus sending his disciples out on mission for Week 2 of *The Spiritual Exercises*. Read the introduction and then “ask for the grace.” Then quietly read the passage by using your imagination to enter into the story, sensing and feeling what’s going on. Don’t analyze the passage or seek insights — *experience yourself as a character in the story*. After the second reading have a “colloquy” (short, personal conversation) with the Lord. You can use the prompts and questions at the bottom to guide your prayer time and journaling (and sharing with others).

Introduction: Matthew records Jesus sending the Twelve out on an evangelistic mission without him. Later, according to Luke, Jesus sends out seventy of his disciples, two-by-two, giving them the instructions below on how to navigate being lambs in a wolf pack! When they return they’re rejoicing that the demons are subject to them, but Jesus cautions, “The great triumph is not in your authority over evil, but in God’s authority over you and presence with you. Not what you do for God but what God does for you—that’s the agenda for rejoicing.” Then Luke adds, “At that time, Jesus rejoiced, exuberant in the Holy Spirit.” (Luke 10:20-21, MSG) We bring exuberant joy to Jesus when we minister his gospel to other people in his name!

Ask For the Grace: Divine Majesty, I ask for the grace I desire: that you move my will to choose what will bring the greatest glory to Christ and will further your salvation for myself and others.

Imagine Yourself in the Gospel: Luke 10 (MSG)

1-2 Later the Master selected seventy and sent them ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he intended to go. He gave them this charge:

“What a huge harvest! And how few the harvest hands. So on your knees; ask the God of the Harvest to send harvest hands.

3 “On your way! But be careful—this is hazardous work. You’re like lambs in a wolf pack.

4 “Travel light. Comb and toothbrush and no extra luggage.

“Don’t loiter and make small talk with everyone you meet along the way.

5-6 “When you enter a home, greet the family, ‘Peace.’ If your greeting is received, then it’s a good place to stay. But if it’s not received, take it back and get out. Don’t impose yourself.

7 “Stay at one home, taking your meals there, for a worker deserves three square meals. Don’t move from house to house, looking for the best cook in town.

8-9 “When you enter a town and are received, eat what they set before you, heal anyone who is sick, and tell them, ‘God’s kingdom is right on your doorstep!’...

16 “The one who listens to you, listens to me. The one who rejects you, rejects me. And rejecting me is the same as rejecting God, who sent me.”

1st Reading: Visualize yourself in the Gospel story. Don’t seek intellectual insights — stay with the imagery. Use your senses to see, touch, feel, and hear. What part of the story are you drawn to? Which character do you identify with? Or are you a bystander?

2nd Reading: Experience the story in the role of the character God led you to. Then talk with the Lord. What do you feel? How does this relate to something in your life today? What is God saying to you?