

BRIDGES to the Good News

Living the Good News
PROPER 10 – B

Sunday Summary

Mark 6:14-29

In this section of the gospel, Mark uses one of his familiar “sandwich” constructions to highlight the meaning of the mission of the disciples. In between their sending (vv. 7-13) and their return (v. 30), instead of narrating the details of their mission, Mark recounts the death of John the Baptist. His message is clear: there is no privileged form of discipleship. Sharing in Jesus’ mission will always cost.

In Mark’s gospel, the fate of John the Baptist and Jesus are closely linked. When John is arrested (Greek, *handed over*), Jesus then began his ministry (1:14). Now in the ministry section, the fate of John serves as a warning about the hardships that disciples will also face after Jesus’ death.

John’s death also foreshadows the difficulties that Jesus must face in carrying out his mission. He will soon have to reveal to the disciples that his death must be an essential part of his messianic role (8:31; 9:31; 10:45).

Weekly Reflection



We might expect a drum roll, or at least a lightning flash, when God chooses human beings to participate in God’s work. Yet in today’s readings we see a more human, humble face of the choice of discipleship.

When Jesus sent out twelve disciples, they were ill-equipped by our standards—no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, no extra clothes. Only sandals on their feet—to carry them to the receptive and away from the unreceptive; and a staff—a support for walking and perhaps a symbol of the shepherd’s profession.

Neither were they prepared for their mission by understanding fully what it was all about. Jesus sent them out with a message that had made him offensive even to his own family. Yet something about him must have impelled them to go forth with the same message.

How then do we follow their model? Perhaps they show us that we needn’t have our own houses perfectly in order before we minister to others. Nor do we need to spruce up our credentials: apparently none of the disciples took theology courses in the seminary.

Jesus calls them in their ordinary clothes, pursuing their usual routines. They discover powers they didn’t know they had. And people knew there had been followers of Jesus among them. These disciples had been chosen for an astonishing destiny.



Food for Thought

❖ For what difficult tasks has God chosen us?



Food for Thought

❖ What different emotions are evoked by the experience of God’s call?

Bridges for Tridgers

Recipe for Awareness

Begin with a moment of centering silence and quiet reflection, setting aside the concerns and agenda of the day.

1 We come to an awareness of God's presence in our family.

"Dear God, who is present with our family now, and at all times and in all ways..."

Continue with:

2 We express our gratitude for today's gifts from God.

"Today I give thanks for..." or,
"Today, I am grateful for..."

Pause again for another moment of centering silence and quiet reflection.

3 We come to an awareness of God's presence in our own experience.

Silently contemplate the question:
"When have I acted from love?"

Silently contemplate the question:
"When have I acted from fear?"

Based on your contemplation, create your intention to move forward as an expression of God's Love.

4 We plan and move forward with God.

"God, help me to manifest your presence today by..."

Invitations to Community

- Jesus sent out disciples to preach good news to those who would hear it. How do we spread the good news of Jesus? What people in need are we failing to reach with the good news? What in our lives might obstruct the message of the good news? Pray for members of our faith community, that they might share the good news with others in all that they do and say.
- Jesus gave his disciples authority over evil powers. What demonic powers diminish the freedom of God's people today? How might people be held in bondage by addictions, ambition, bigotry or depression? Pray that God's power today might break every bond in which God's people are held.

Suggestions for Families

Decorate a shoebox with gift paper or collage materials. Make a decorative label that says *Doing God's Work*. Ask each family member to write down or illustrate the work they believe God wants us to do—as individuals or as a family. Communicate that there are no bad ideas—big or small, simple or complicated—all suggestions are welcomed. Compile the ideas in the box. Each night this week at dinner, draw out a picture. Discuss ways that the family might contribute to that work, and then pray for Jesus' help.

Prayer Starter

God, thank you for calling me your own from before the creation of the world. Thank you for the privilege of sharing in Jesus' redemptive work...

