



CELEBRATING AT HOME

11TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

Growing disciples (Matthew 9:36-10:8)



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Sign of the Cross

In the name of the Father, and of the Son,
and of the Holy Spirit.

Amen.

The Lord is here, present among us.

**We are gathered with the whole Church
in this moment of prayer.**

Preparing to hear the Word

Lord Jesus,
you call us to be your own.

Lord Jesus,
you grace us with your Spirit.

Lord Jesus,
you send us as missionaries of love and mercy.

Scripture Reading *(Matthew 9:36-10:8)*

When Jesus saw the crowds he felt sorry for them because they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest.'

He summoned his twelve disciples, and gave them authority over unclean spirits with power to cast them out and to cure all kinds of diseases and sickness.

These are the names of the twelve apostles: first, Simon who is called Peter, and his brother Andrew; James the son of Zebedee and his brother John; Philip and Bartholomew; Thomas and Matthew, the tax collector; James, the son of Alphaeus, and Thaddaeus; Simon the Zealot and Judas Iscariot, the one who was to betray him. These twelve Jesus sent out, instructing them as follows:

'Do not turn your steps to pagan territory, and do not enter any Samaritan town; go rather to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. And as you go, proclaim that the kingdom of heaven is close at hand. Cure the sick, raise the dead, cleanse the lepers, cast out devils. You received without charge, give without charge.'

Reflection - *Growing disciples*

This week's Gospel contains the first part of Jesus' instructions to the disciples as they set out on their mission.

At the beginning of the reading we hear that Jesus is moved with compassion for the crowds. He loves them and feels for them and responds to their need since 'they were harassed and dejected, like sheep without a shepherd'. It is Jesus' compassion for the people that compels him to act.

Then he urges the whole group of disciples to pray to 'the Lord of the harvest' for more labourers. Then, from the broader group of disciples, Jesus chooses twelve who Matthew names as 'apostles' or emissaries.

To these twelve Jesus entrusts the mission of proclaiming that the kingdom of God is close at hand. This is not an 'end of the world' prediction. We could better translate it as: the kingdom of God is very close to you. To a people who had constantly been told that God despised them, that they were sinners and very far from the kingdom of God, this was good news indeed.

Jesus gives the disciples the authority to accompany the proclamation of the Good News with the healing of 'all kinds of diseases and sickness' to break the idea that illness (in whatever form) was a curse sent by God or punishment for sinfulness. Instead, the disciples are to be a sign of God's kindness which brings health and wholeness. The proclamation of the Good News is always to be done generously and without counting the cost.

Through the words of the Gospel may we hear again our own call to be emissaries of God's love and bearers of Good News. May we allow the kindness and compassion of God to touch one another through us.

Prayers of Intercession

May we build your kingdom with grace and love.
Lord, hear us.

May we bring your compassion and presence to all.
Lord, hear us.

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Continually form us as your own.

Lord, hear us.

Lord's Prayer

Formed by the teaching and example of Jesus,
we pray:

**Our Father, who art in heaven,
hallowed be thy name.**

Thy kingdom come.

**Thy will be done on earth
as it is in heaven.**

**Give us this day our daily bread
and forgive us our trespasses
as we forgive those who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.**

Closing Prayer

Loving and living God,
you draw all people to you.
Help us to be your love in the heart of the world.
Through Christ our Lord.

Amen.

Blessing

May the blessing of God be among us,
and remain with us for ever. Amen.



Journey into the Light

This resource is presented by the Carmelites for use by individuals, families and small groups as a prayerful celebration of the Word of God to help prepare us to celebrate the Eucharist with our worshipping communities. We are conscious that Christ is present not only in the Blessed Sacrament but also in the Scriptures and in our hearts. We are also conscious of the many people who, for various reasons including sickness and infirmity, cannot physically attend the Eucharist. Even when we are on our own we remain part of the Body of Christ.

In the room you decide to use for this prayer you could have a lighted candle, a crucifix and the Bible. These symbols help keep us mindful of the sacredness of our time of prayer and can help us feel connected with our local worshipping communities.

This text is arranged with parts for a leader and for all to pray, but the leader's parts can be shared among those present.



The Carmelites
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