

Homily for the first Sunday after Trinity
Matthew 9:35 to 10:8 20

I once read:-

"Those who Jesus calls he also sends out."

At the time those few words were quite scary because Jean and I were busy leading church weekends and we didn't always know where we would be sent next. Scary too because we seemed to be continually reminded of PNG! (Papua New Guinea) Over a short period of time we both constantly reminded of PNG. Were we to go to PNG? That would mean giving up everything and moving. For a time it was scary but after a while we found we were directed to pray for an outreach in the country.

We had to face the question:- Had we been called to PNG? It would have been a great adventure but no God had other things in mind.

It was a case of our will/Gods will and knowing the difference!

In today's gospel we see Jesus going about proclaiming the Good News, teaching and healing the sick.

He seems to be aware how harassed and helpless so many people are.

(Not unlike our world today!)

It seems Jesus feels for them and he has compassion for them.

He sees they are like sheep without a shepherd.

Rushing around from one thing to another with no one to guide them and no one to protect them.

Jesus wants to help them.

Jesus is aware of the great harvest to be won and he says to the disciples:-

"The harvest is plentiful but the labourers are few, therefore ask the Lord of the harvest to send out labourers into the harvest."

At this point there is a health warning!!

The reply from God should be

"Whom shall I send?"

and the answer should be

"Here I am send me"

So it seems Jesus calls his disciples not to just **listen and learn** but to **go out and do!**

But to do the right things!

"Those who Jesus calls he also sends out."

He calls us to do those things he has ordained for us not the things we want to do. Sometimes they may be the same thing but not always!!

Jesus gives his power to the disciples but it is not just for them but for them to give to others.

In verse 2 in chapter 10 we see the other name for those he has chosen.

They are to be Apostles.

Those who are sent out by Jesus.

He sends them out to proclaim the Good News, to heal the sick and to care for the distressed.

Could that be our calling today?

Jesus needs the disciples to continue the work that he has started.
But he warns them of the dangers they will face. He says the tasks will be difficult there will be opposition and there will be dangers but they should not worry because they will have the power of the Holy Spirit with them. The Spirit of God. This "go" thing Jesus talks about seems to be very important because at the end of Matthew's Gospel Jesus is still saying "Go."

So from our reading today we can see that Jesus sends all those he calls.

Just note he doesn't send until after he calls!
We can't speak out for him unless we know him. There is a pattern - a way if you like:-
Coming to him and then going out in his power is what makes us the true Church of God.

We are then seen as:-

The one holy catholic and apostolic church.

Let's just split that up:-

The one - that is united in him.

Holy - that is belonging to God.

Catholic - that is for all people, at all times and all places.

And

Apostolic - that is sent out by him in the power of the Spirit.

Church - we are called by him and we answer his call.

So it seems God is a "calling God."
And he asks each of us to respond to his call. In Jesus we hear the command
"GO therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptising them in the name of the Father, Son and Holy Spirit."
And God promises us.
"I am always with you."
Are you up for the call?
You bet we are!!

Prayer

Lord God you have called us
to know you, to love you and to proclaim you
may we live in awareness of you
And, in the power of your Spirit
tell of your love in all the world
through Jesus Christ our Lord
Amen

Revd. Stephen