

July, 11, 2021

[Fifteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time](#)

Amos 7:12—16

Eph 1:3—14 (or 1:2—10)

Matt 6:7—13

Please note, this summer we are re-running reflections from the last cycle B, 2018

By John L. Bostwick, O.Praem.

What is most striking is that Jesus sends the Twelve out on mission “two by two.” He sends them in pairs. There are no lone rangers, but companions who engage in mission and ministry together. This is important today as it builds in accountability and support and works to undermine the “personality cult” that can become the bane of church communities.

And what is their mission?

Jesus sends them as ordinary, poor missionaries, charged to live in simplicity and to proclaim the gospel of repentance and healing of mind and body. And there is no mention of a “*cappa magna*” among their equipment. They are simple followers of Jesus doing what he did, as he shared his mission with them.

Like Amos, Jesus and his disciples were not part of the official royal establishment. They had no official civil or religious license for their ministry. They were ordinary workers who were called to be God’s mouthpiece and to speak the truth in freedom. That probably did not win them honors or friends in high places. Historically, Christian faith is most often compromised when it works hand-in-glove with secular power.

The opening passage of Ephesians is a lyrical prayer of blessing describing the real, spiritual wealth of the faithful disciples, their intimacy with the God of blessing.

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