

Sunday Reflection

- ◆ **First Reading:** *Amos 7:12-15*
- ◆ **Second Reading:** *Ephesians 1:3-14*
- ◆ **Gospel:** *Mark 6:7-13*

That was an unusual decision taken by Our Lord, to send out the apostles in pairs to preach repentance ; there's no mention of having trained them in the practice of preaching ; they were given a few instructions and off they went "TAKE NO BREAD, NO HAVERSACK NOR POCKET MONEY" strange! And that was at a time when there were no cars, no aeroplanes nor mobile phones nor e mails nor social media ; Haven't we come a long way with our technology?, that's for sure but there is something that has not changed nor ever will, and that is the call to Repentance "SO THEY SET OFF TO PREACH REPENTANCE" Is our repentance a once-off decision or only a temporary positive reaction to the message of the Gospel?, the word "Gospel" means Good News ; On a daily basis we listen to all sorts of news, the news keeps changing according to local and world events ; Can you remember what were the headlines three days ago? Or what did u have for your dinner two days ago? "gosh" says you "I can't remember"

So there must be something special about the Good News of Jesus the Lord ; The message of repentance is an invitation to change the way we see things from WITHIN ; If you freely choose to accept the call to repentance for the rest of your life, then what happens? the DYING PROCESS begins!, No! not in the context of the human frame entering into the stages of deterioration as the years pass, more so Repentance is this slow interior death to the self in order to make more and more room for the Spirit of Life, the Spirit of God, as st. John the Baptist said after his 1st encounter with the Lord "HE MUST INCREASE, I MUST DECREASE"

If that be the case, if you and I take to our hearts the message of Repentance, then whatever we are looking for in life, we will not find it from people, places nor material things, why? because by responding with a sincere YES to the call to Repentance, then we will see ourselves slowly moving away from materialism, worldly deception and false ideologies, of which there is no shortage.

The call to Repentance (or reconversion), to say YES to the Good News is not just a once-off decision, it's the work of a lifetime, because it's so easy to slip back into our "oldisms", and that's all right!, that can happen, as the saying goes, "that can happen to a bishop!!" ;

So in the context of this Gospel reading to-day and their mission to go out and preach repentance, let us remind ourselves of what we must do,

Repentance - to be renewed internally once again as we take on our daily chores ;

Repentance - to allow the Holy Spirit to guide us towards Heaven ;

Repentance - to regularly stop in our tracks and to ask ourselves "Am I slipping back into the ways of the world? then what has gone wrong? what do I need to change?, maybe I need to start all over again"

Repentance - "HE MUST INCREASE, I MUST DECREASE"

p.s. very soon all the virus restrictions will be lifted, but the number of infections is rising at an alarming rate ; have you thought of continuing to protect yourself and your family from this dreaded "attack" on humanity?, of course you have ; Pray to the Holy Spirit and to your Guardian Angel, that come what may, you'll receive the wisdom, courage and guidance to deal with what has to be dealt with, and as always look out for those near you who live alone.....