

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time



Our past is often marked by secrecy, shame, and isolation. But in recovery from lust addiction, sexual compulsions, and other unhealthy attachments, the dark corners of our lives are met with the light of grace and fellowship. As we heal, we're invited to share what we've received—hope, honesty, and healing. This may seem daunting, especially if we feel unworthy or unsure. Yet it's through sharing and serving that we continue to grow in spiritual strength and emotional sobriety.

We may wonder how to help others when we ourselves still struggle. But Jesus doesn't wait for us to be perfect—He sends us as we are, dependent on grace and grounded in humility. Our strength lies not in how polished our stories are, but in our willingness to be real.

This Sunday's Gospel reading tells the story of Jesus commissioning a large group of disciples who are to go out "like lambs among the wolves" and share the good news. Jesus tells the crowd, "The harvest is abundant but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest" (Luke 10:2). Jesus then directs the group (Luke 10:4-11):

*Carry no money bag, no sack, no sandals;
and greet no one along the way.
Into whatever house you enter, first say, "Peace to
this household."
If a peaceful person lives there,
your peace will rest on him;
but if not, it will return to you.
Stay in the same house and eat and drink what is
offered to you,
for the laborer deserves his payment.
Do not move about from one house to another.
Whatever town you enter and they welcome you,
eat what is set before you,
cure the sick in it and say to them,
"The kingdom of God is at hand for you."*

There are people around us—at meetings, in confession lines, even within our families—who are silently suffering. When we share how lust no longer controls our lives, we offer them a glimpse of hope. Not everyone will be ready to hear it, and that's okay. Our task is to be willing and to bring peace.

We also learn not to isolate. Like the disciples sent two-by-two, our program teaches us that accountability, community, and connection are key to recovery. Step Twelve calls us to bring our message to others, not in shame or superiority, but in unity and love.

Jesus concludes with a reminder of what matters most (Luke 10:17–20):

“Lord, even the demons are subject to us because of your name.”

Jesus said, “I have observed Satan fall like lightning from the sky.

Behold, I have given you the power to ‘tread upon serpents’ and scorpions and upon the full force of the enemy and nothing will harm you.

Nevertheless, do not rejoice because the spirits are subject to you, but rejoice because your names are written in heaven.”

Our value is not in success or sinlessness, but in our belonging to God.

FYZWJcb Ei Yghcbg

- Where might God be inviting you to share your recovery story or offer support to another?
- What fears do you have about being “sent out” to serve others, and how can you face them with God?
- In what ways can you stay rooted in humility and accountability as you carry the message of hope?

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First Reading: Isaiah 66:10-14c

Responsorial Psalm: Psalm 66:1-3, 4-5, 6-7, 16, 20

Second Reading: Galatians 6:14-18

Gospel: Luke 10:1-12, 17-20