

From the Rector's Study, the Rev. Bryce Sangster  
Sunday, July 3rd, Pentecost IV  
2 Kings 5:1-14 Psalm 30 Galatians 6:1-16 Luke 10:1-11, 16-20

In some versions of this passage the number is 72 instead of 70.  
This according to Hebrew scholars is the number of descendants of Noah from the Ark. So, this means all the world is involved in this mission and ministry.

A universal implication.

And some sense of metaphor in this as well.

*Go on your way. See, I am sending you out like lambs into the midst of wolves.  
Carry no purse, no bag, no sandals; and greet no one on the road.*

This seems to mean that as lambs those being sent are going not from a position of strength and control but of vulnerability and that the people whom they meet will have the power and could very well act like wolves. This is further emphasised by saying they carry no purse, bag, or sandals.

This suggests that yes, we bring talents and blessings to the table but that the value in what we do, and the outcome is not up to us. As I have said in the past, we are called to be faithful and not successful. And that we are to be at the mercy of others. We don't know if those we meet on the road of life will be wolves as Jesus suggests in the passage today, or like shepherds helping us as lambs in life.

The summary of the law about loving God with all our heart and soul, mind and strength and loving our neighbours as ourselves.

That are we not only to love God and neighbour, but to receive love from God and neighbour as well. That we are members of a community and cannot stand on our own as individuals. And even the helping of others is not done in isolation without the help, and guidance of others.

Maybe to love ourselves is also to love all parts of ourselves including the parts we are not so fond of.

And that to understand what Carl Jung suggests regarding our shadow side is that our talents also have an element of weakness, and that we work best within the value and benefit of community.

Jesus says this in different words today when he: *sent them on ahead of him in pairs to every town and place where he himself intended to go.*

Jesus was expecting to follow up and go to the same people he was sending them; he was going to follow up at a later date and talk to the same people they were to contact.

And: Jesus says: *do not rejoice at this, that the spirits submit to you, but rejoice that your names are written in heaven."*

Maybe the regional ministry is of interest, not only because it is new and exciting, but because I have thought that team ministry is more supportive than the usual way parish ministry is done, one priest per parish on their own. It has been called the Lone Ranger model without a Tonto. So, it makes sense for us as priests to live out ministry in community more fully rather than as a Lone Ranger. If we are to expect it of others, to live it ourselves in community. Of course this has not meant that we have not received mutual support from and with lay people in the parish all along as well.

Amen

The Lord bless *you* and watch over *you*,  
the Lord make his face shine upon *you*  
and be gracious to *you*,  
the Lord look kindly on *you*  
and give *you* peace;  
and the blessing ...