

## READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR THE 15TH SUNDAY OF ORDINARY TIME

### A READING FROM THE BOOK OF THE PROPHET AMOS 7:12-15

*Go, prophesy to my people.*

Amaziah, the priest of Bethel, said to Amos, 'Go away, seer; get back to the land of Judah; earn your bread there, do your prophesying there. We want no more prophesying in Bethel; this is the royal sanctuary, the national temple.'

'I was no prophet, neither did I belong to any of the brotherhoods of prophets,'

Amos replied to Amaziah. 'I was a shepherd, and looked after sycamores:

but it was the Lord who took me from herding the flock, and the Lord who said, "Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

#### The Word of the Lord.

### RESPONSORIAL PSALM PS 84:9-14

1. I will hear what the Lord God has to say,  
a voice that speaks of peace, peace for his people.

His help is near for those who fear him and his glory will dwell in our land.

***Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.***

2. Mercy and faithfulness have met; justice and peace have embraced.  
Faithfulness shall spring from the earth and justice look down from heaven.

***Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.***

3. The Lord will make us prosper and our earth shall yield its fruit.  
Justice shall march before him and peace shall follow his steps.

***Let us see, O Lord, your mercy and give us your saving help.***

### A READING FROM THE LETTER OF ST PAUL TO THE EPHESIANS 1:3-14

*Before the world was made, he chose us.*

Blessed be God the Father of our Lord Jesus Christ,

who has blessed us with all the spiritual blessings of heaven in Christ.

Before the world was made, he chose us, chose us in Christ,

to be holy and spotless, and to live through love in his presence,

determining that we should become his adopted sons, through Jesus Christ

for his own kind purposes, to make us praise the glory of his grace,

his free gift to us in the Beloved in whom, through his blood, we gain our freedom,

the forgiveness of our sins. Such is the richness of the grace which he has showered on us in all wisdom and insight.

He has let us know the mystery of his purpose,  
the hidden plan he so kindly made in Christ from the beginning  
to act upon when the times had run their course to the end:  
that he would bring everything together under Christ, as head,  
everything in the heavens and everything on earth.



And it is in him that we were claimed as God's own, chosen from the beginning, under the predetermined plan of the one who guides all things as he decides by his own will; chosen to be, for his greater glory, the people who would put their hopes in Christ before he came.

Now you too, in him, have heard the message of the truth and the good news of your salvation, and have believed it:

and you too have been stamped with the seal of the Holy Spirit of the Promise, the pledge of our inheritance which brings freedom for those whom God has taken for his own, to make his glory praised.



### **The Word of the Lord**

Your words are spirit, Lord, and they are life:  
you have the message of eternal life. *Jn 6: 63. 68*

### **A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 6:7-13**

*He began to send them out.*

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out in pairs giving them authority over the unclean spirits. And he instructed them to take nothing for the journey except a staff – no bread, no haversack, no coppers for their purses. They were to wear sandals but, he added, *'Do not take a spare tunic.'* And he said to them, *'If you enter a house anywhere, stay there until you leave the district. And if any place does not welcome you and people refuse to listen to you, as you walk away shake off the dust from under your feet as a sign to them.'* So they set off to preach repentance; and they cast out many devils, and anointed many sick people with oil and cured them.

**The Gospel of the Lord.**

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### **REFLECTION**

It can be difficult for us to take initiatives in the face of hostility, apathy, confusion or when we feel inadequate. The opposition to Jesus couldn't prevent the word spreading to the villages in his region. Jesus called disciples; and Jesus calls us. Jesus commissioned the Twelve; and we also will learn what is our role in the Mission of Jesus. As disciples (which means 'learners'), we also need the Spirit of God as our companion on our journey.

The disciples (who surely were learners) were aware of very significant role models for them. When Jesus called them to 'take nothing but a staff', they couldn't help but think of Moses. Moses wrestled with God's call to him and then with his own people who too often forgot both their God-given gift of freedom and God's fidelity to them every step of their way to the Promised Land. Though empowered by the Spirit, the Twelve still had to resolve fundamental issues both amongst themselves and in difficult social circumstances. Don't worry when this is our experience whatever be our circumstances.

Let's have confidence taking 'no bread'. Let's take nothing for granted and use our God-given brains but let's not forget Jesus' essential instruction to us to grow in our trust in God. Enjoy 'the bread', the supplies', the 'money' and the 'spare tunic' God will provide when needed. Enjoy being sent...

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