

# TRINITY NEWS

## Pentecost VII Investing Trust Words that Count Speaking with Inclusion

**T**he passage in Luke 10:1-12, 16-20 set for the gospel today is about the commissioning of seventy people by Christ. Sending in the Gospels is about the core group, the Twelve Disciples/Apostles. But here the net is cast much wider. What preparation did these people have for their ministry? Where did Jesus get them from? The unit of ministry becomes two by two rather than twelve. They are to precede Christ, so they reveal a ministry that Jesus has planned to visit various towns.

They are to travel light. The message is the same: “The Reign of God has come near you!” The matter of welcoming and hospitality and the greeting of Shalom are mentioned. So also is the sharing of meals and dealing with rejection. Shaking the dust off one’s sandals in front of houses in a street where rejection has occurred is an ancient ritual with deep meaning. We cannot deal with rejection by accepting the glib advice that we should “get over it.” To shake the dust off sandals we either have to shake our feet or take the sandals off and shake them. Either way it takes effort.

The symbol is powerful and the ritual was developed to indicate that the rejection was no longer accepted. But it still has to be lived out day by day. Saying no to rejection affirms our own identity. But it is often a painful process and sometimes it is still with us after a lifetime. But the good news is that it does not have to be. What we think of others and what they think of us is not nearly as important as we think. The greatest of Psalms talk about the Father Shepherd setting a table before us in the presence of those who trouble us. It is also set before those we trouble. The “cup” is full on the table. It is always there for us to celebrate the wonderful moments that are part of each day.

We are disciples of Christ sent into the world. We have to learn every day how to announce that God has arrived; the table is set with all that we need and the celebration of life happens every day. The Holy Spirit gives us words and ways to find peace in our dealings with others and to facilitate their dealings with us. The poet Walt Whitman described it as letters being dropped in the street to guide us. We are given everything to handle even the tiniest matters in our life if we will only pick up the ‘letters’. We learn how to worship and to pray and to read the Scriptures, but we are slow in learning to be disciples. We also must obey the Lord’s command to make disciples of all nations.

Walk away from rejection, but don't walk away from people. The only power that rejection has over you is the power that you grant it. God is near and God comes with a small table miraculously laden with endless gifts. The feeding of the five thousand did not stop in Galilee in the first century. We must reject debilitating rejection, and reject anything with the taint of evil, and we also need to discern the different aspects of rejection. Sometime a rejection is a passport to an outstanding achievement.

Sit down at the table and enjoy! The Reign of God has drawn near and it gets nearer when we invoke the presence of God's Spirit. Look for Jesus and his luminous insights not only in the light of a candle but in the darkest shadows.  
Bishop Arthur Jones

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### **TO PLAN:**

#### **Wednesday.**

- Bible Study, 10:00am

#### **Thursday.**

- Midweek Eucharist, 10am, Chapel

### **NEXT WEEK'S READINGS:**

Deuteronomy 30:9-14; Psalm 25; Colossians 1:1-14; Luke 10:25-37