

Needed: More than 12

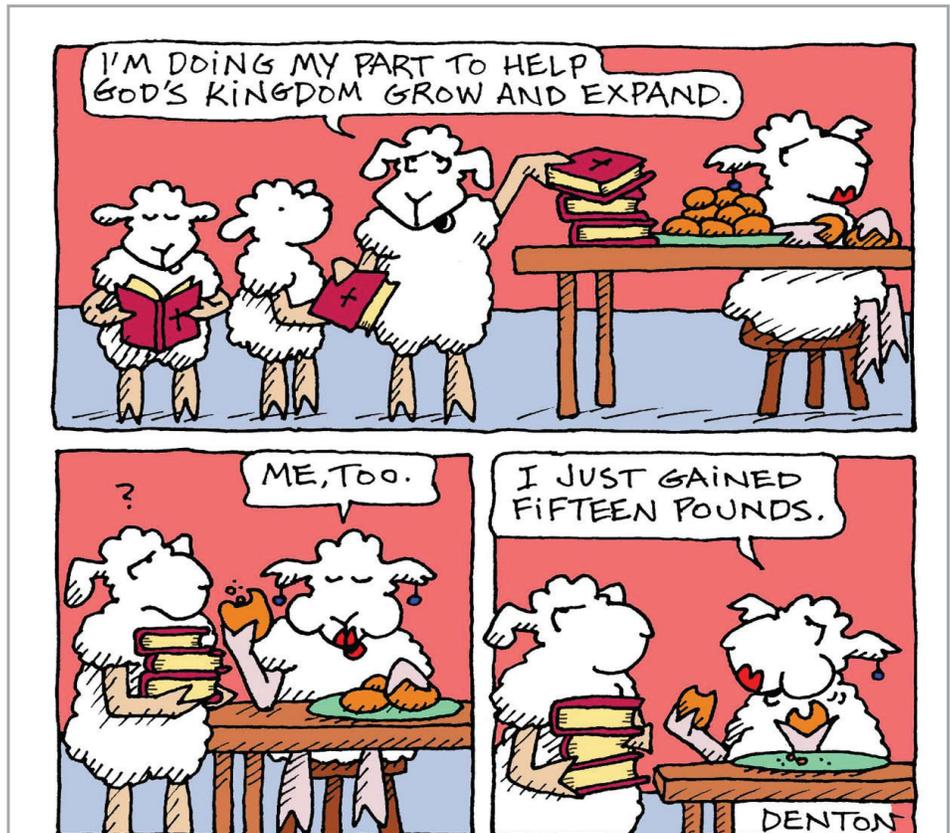
This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ Isaiah 66:10-14c - Mother Zion
- ▶ Galatians 6:14-18 - The Cross, our true boast
- ▶ Luke 10:1-12, 17-20 or 10:1-9 - Mission of the 72

Twice in the Gospel of Luke Jesus sends disciples out to spread his mission by curing the sick and preaching the Kingdom of God, a realm of peace, justice, and compassion for all. The first time, in the chapter before this reading, Jesus sent out his 12 apostles.

In the passage today, he sends out a larger group of 72 others. It seems Jesus realizes that he needs more than 12 helpers in this work!

It's likely that this larger group of 72 included women as well as men. In chapter 8, Luke mentions by name several women who accompanied Jesus in his ministry including Mary Magdalen, Joanna, and Susanna, "and many others, who provided for them out of their resources" (Lk 8:2-3). When Jesus sends out the 72 they



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“The harvest is abundant
but the laborers are few.”

Sheepish Question:

With all I've been given, am I spreading
the Good News, or just spreading myself?

are sent out in pairs. In the Acts of the Apostles and Paul's letters, there are references to married couples who work and travel together as missionaries.

Jesus instructions were practical for missionaries of his day when the early Christians relied on the hospitality and generosity of other open-minded individuals who wanted to hear about Jesus' teachings. He did not want them weighed down or slowed down by hauling their material possessions, and he challenged them to stretch to trust in God's care for them provided through others.

He also gave them advice about what to do when they

were not received well, the proverbial "shake the dust from your feet" which Jesus demonstrated in last week's reading when he wasn't received in Samaria. Although we may not be full-time Christian missionaries today, all of Jesus' instructions for how to conduct ourselves in our daily lives can still be relevant and offer guidance for our work and personal relationships



Questions of the Week

- ① What might you be invited to let go of to lighten your load and free you up for easier movement in your life's work right now?
- ② Where/when have you offered your skills, gifts, or time only to have them rejected? What was it like to try to shake the dust from your feet and move on?