



Ambassadors of a **WORLDWIDE BROTHERHOOD**

MEDITATION 5: PEACE IN THIS HOUSE

Jesus calls people to follow Him. People who follow Him are sent to continue his work. Besides vocation, brother- and sisterhood and mercy, the mission is an important aspect of our life. What is our destination and what is our goal? Jesus is our compass. Being an ambassador of a Worldwide Brotherhood is a mission we have taken upon ourselves. What and who do we need to fulfill our mission?

- **Lectio: You just have to go your ways (fragments from Luke 10)**

Now after these things, the Lord appointed seventy others, and sent them two by two ahead of him into every city and place, where he was about to come.

Then he said to them,

“The harvest is indeed plentiful, but the labourers are few.

Pray therefore to the Lord of the harvest,
that he may send out labourers into his harvest.

Go your ways.

Behold, I send you out as lambs among wolves.

Carry no purse, nor wallet, nor sandals. Greet no one on the way.

Into whatever house you enter, first say,

‘Peace be to this house.’

If a son of peace is there, your peace will rest on him; but if not, it will return to you.

Remain in that same house, eating and drinking the things they give, for the labourer is worthy of his wages. Don’t go from house to house.

Into whatever city you enter, and they receive you, eat the things that are set before you.

Heal the sick who are therein, and tell them,

‘The Kingdom of God has come near to you.’”

The seventy returned with joy, saying, “Lord, even the demons are subject to us in your name!”

He said to them, “rejoice that your names are written in heaven.”

In that same hour Jesus rejoiced in the Holy Spirit, and said, “I thank you, O Father, Lord of heaven and earth, that you have hidden these things from the wise and educated people, and revealed them to ordinary people. Yes, Father, for so it was well-pleasing in your sight.”

Turning to the disciples, he said, “All things have been delivered to me by my Father. No one knows who the Son is, except the Father, and who the Father is, except the Son, and he to whomever the Son desires to reveal him.”

Turning to the disciples, he said privately, “Blessed are the eyes which see the things that you see.”

- **Meditatio**

The gospel of Luke has two mission stories. In the first, Jesus sends the Twelve Apostles on the road. In this story, he sends seventy-two people on the road. It seems to be a lot of people, but Jesus immediately says that they are with few. Israel alone is too big for such a group. Let alone the world.

It looks like he makes a distinction. The instructions are precise. He warns his disciples for what they may encounter on the road. Each disciple will be sent as a lamb among wolves. The image is clear. A lamb is defenseless; the wolves are predators.

However, the disciples are not supposed to arm themselves while going on the road. Jesus even goes one step further: the first word is peace. Peace as a weapon to enter into relationship with others. If a relationship brings peace, there is also reward.

Curing the sick is not an easy task. Yet this is a major theme in the Gospel. Wherever Jesus goes, he proclaims the kingdom of God and He heals the sick. These two commissions he also gives to his disciples. The disciples share the mission which Jesus himself has received.

The students joyfully return for all things they have experienced. And Jesus sings a jubilant song. His message remains a mystery to all who think they are wise and intelligent. The word 'ordinary people' is not common in the New Testament. It always opposes the wise. Jesus focuses on and cares for ordinary people, more than others.

In the end, the relationship between Jesus and the Father is clearly described. Without Jesus we cannot learn to know the Father.

Jesus concludes with a beatitude. Especially in the Beatitudes, Jesus shows for whom he has eyes and ears: the humble, the poor, the imprisoned, the sinners, the oppressed, the hungry, the sorrowful ...

We now read the text again

- **Contemplatio**

After each part of the following text, we will be silent for a moment. At the end there is a silence of 10 minutes, ending with instrumental music.

1. Jesus sends us on our way. He asks us to leave everything behind. We just have to go our ways. Can we do that?
2. Our group is not large. We never have enough people. We can complain about that. We can also continue to look for all the others. Therefore, we can pray. Do we pray for vocations every day? Do we pray and ask God to give us people with whom we can share the gospel, and celebrate it?
3. We can complain about the small group. We can also concentrate on the quality of our witness. What is the quality of our lives as ambassadors of a worldwide brotherhood?
4. We are naked people in the midst of a violent world. Jesus challenges us to go through the world defenseless. How do we feel about that?
5. Let 'peace' be your first word. Everywhere we go, peace will be heard. Peace is our only weapon. Peace is our walking cane, and it supports us on our way.
6. Jesus sends us on our way to heal people. However, he does not want us all to be doctors. The disciples reported that they saw demons leave. This makes it rather clear that this text is about mental disorders: loneliness, depression, nervousness, imprisoned and rejected people, ... What can you do to heal these people?
7. Jesus clarifies his relationship with the Father. This relationship is open to anyone who wants to share in it. Where is your place in this relationship?
8. The beatitude "Blessed are the eyes that see what you see", is also meant for you. What does it mean to you?

- **Collatio (sharing)**

1. What task did you give yourself last time? What did you do with it?
2. What do you leave behind when Jesus sends you?
3. Peace is your only weapon. Peace is the only way to make this world less violent. Peace is working towards a world without weapons. What opportunities do you have to do so?
4. How can 'curing' be a guide in what you do as ambassador?
5. What has changed in your relationship with Jesus in recent months?

- **Oratio (praying)**

Jesus asks us to pray for vocations. How do you pray for vocations?

'Being sent by Jesus' also asks us to leave things behind. What do we need (what do we pray for) to go the way that Jesus sends us?

- **Creatio (creative assignment)**

This meeting is the last one before ambassadors from all countries meet in Tilburg. During this international week there will be a group presentation: each group will introduce its ambassadors and its culture.

You can introduce your group by a song, a dance, a story-telling, or whatever you can think about that reflects something of your group and your culture.

So.... Please start thinking about it, and practice your presentation!

- **Operatio (acting)**

This meeting is the last one before ambassadors from all countries meet in Tilburg and then move further on their way to the World Youth Days in Madrid.

What do you really need to go your ways? Read this vocation story (Luke 10) again, and also the vocation story of Abraham (Genesis 12,1-9). Besides this, read the text of the WYD-theme (Col.2,6-7): "Planted and built up in Jesus Christ, keep on following him".

If you have a diary in which you write down your thoughts, take a look at what you have written during the last months. What do you leave behind when you go on your way, together with these other young people from all over the world?

What can *you* do, with what you've discovered in meditation and in the conversations with others you have had today?