

15th Sunday Ordinary Time

- One Sunday pastor notices little boy in foyer staring up at large plaque
 - Covered with names & a American Flag next to each name
 - After a long while the Pastor went to the boy and the boy asked what the plaque was
 - Pastor answered ‘These are the names of men that died during the service’
 - Soberly the boy stood very still, and with a voice trembling in fear asked
 - ‘Which service, the 830 or the 11?’
- Giving your life in the service of the Lord can be dangerous – full of reward and deprivation
 - Just ask the 12
- An African boy who listened to his teacher explain why Christians give gifts at Christmas
 - She said the gifts were a sign of joy at the gift of Jesus – and our friendship with ea. Other
 - SO – when Christmas came the boy brought her a beautiful shell.
 - She asked where he got it and when he said what beach he’d gone to she knew it was miles away
 - She thanked him for this beautiful gift and said he shouldn’t have gone all that way alone
 - The boy said ‘Long walk part of gift’
- That’s the way it is with Jesus
 - Heaven to a manger manger to a cross cross to a tomb tomb to heaven
 - God says to us ‘The long walk is part of the gift’
- Jesus sends the 12 out 2 x 2, to drive out demons, anoint the sick, proclaim Good News
 - And they must go trusting God
 - No money No food Not even a 2nd tunic – Totally trusting God will provide
 - The 12 did what J told them to do - expel demons, anoint the sick, teach, preach – Grow the KofG
 - LISTEN - **WE** are called to be God’s instruments too
 - When I was ordained part of the Ordination Rite: Given Book of Gospels
 - “**Believe** what you read – **Teach** what you believe – **Practice** what you teach”
 - *Not limited to the Deacon*
 - To expel demons from our families, our jobs, our neighborhood, our town
 - To visit the sick and imprisoned, to feed hungry, clothe naked, to Grow the KofG
 - **Let me ask you:**
 - What is the goal of the Christian husband? Get your wife to heaven
 - What is the goal of Christian wife? Get your hubby to heaven
 - What is the goal of Church? Get each other to heaven
 - Look around – what are you doing to get the guy in the next pew to heaven?
 - IT’S A LONG WALK – it will be hard
 - We’ll walk with those with the unclean spirits of our age
 - To the friend that drinks too much
 - To the co-worker that’s stealing from the company
 - To the friend who leaves his wife home and goes to the disco
 - EPH says ‘We are predestined’ – to what?
 - Glory – yes Heaven – yes Salvation – yes
 - To be prophets – yes To expel demons – yes To anoint sick – yes
 - Remember – it is a long walk, (heartache) but the walk is part of the gift