

15<sup>th</sup> Sunday Ordinary Time

- Woman on the train station sees a sad dog in the crate.
  - Conductor ‘he chewed of his tag and we don’t know where he’s going’
    - Do we know where we’re going?
    - Are you going where YOU want to go – or where GOD wants you to go?
    - God knows your destiny - EPH “we have been chosen before the world began”

**GREAT NEWS**

Why have we been chosen before the world began?

“To be holy and without blemish before Him”

- HOW ON EARTH CAN I BE HOLY BEFORE GOD?
- EPH says “In love we are adopted in Jesus – In Him we have redemption in His blood”

There is nothing I can do – Jesus did it all already – *We can be holy and without blemish before God!*  
*Because we have been redeemed by His blood – NOW WHAT?*

- 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- the call to holiness is OUR call*

If we do that – Jesus’ directions to Apostles can be ours

- Jesus told Apostles to “expel demons, anoint the sick, preach repentance
- Chosen before the world began to be holy & without blemish, because we’re covered in the blood: WE should be able to expel demons (from our families, our jobs, our neighborhood, our town)
- WE should be able to pray for the sick and preach repentance
  - **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?
      - Life is a LONG JOURNEY – it will be hard (but you are not alone!)

LOOK AT AMOS – 1<sup>st</sup> reading

- AMOS – expelled from sanctuary in Bethel by High Priest – because his prophecy was harsh  
As if it was his message – rather than God’s  
AMOS “You think I wanted this? I was a dresser of Sycamores”  
The Lord took me – **he heard the call and responded – just like Apostles sent 2x2 (& Us)**
    - Amos wasn’t going to turn away from God’s call just to prophesy ‘happy prophecies’
    - Amos prophesied what needed to be said – we need to do the same!
      - Are we willing to speak the word of God – even when it’s unpopular?
      - Are we willing to hear God speak to us – even when it’s a call to repent?
      - What if God sends you to:
        - To the friend that drinks too much                      To the friend that uses crack – or weed
        - To the co-worker that’s stealing from the company
        - To the friend who leaves his wife or husband home and goes to the sweetheart
- Amos went when he really didn’t want to - and proclaimed the truth.  
Apostles went & expelled demons, anointed the sick, preached repentance  
*WE have something neither of them did* – the blood of Christ. So what’re we afraid of?  
EPH says ‘**We are predestined to be holy and without blemish before Him**’  
EPH also says “In Christ we were also chosen – so we might exist for the praise of His glory”  
*WE EXIST – to give God glory – let us glorify Christ and grow KOG*