

# The Source of Blessings



Jesus sends the Twelve two by two.

## I. A LOOK AT THE THREE READINGS

### FIRST READING (Am 7:12-15)

<sup>12</sup>To Amos, Amaziah said: “**Off with you, seer, flee to the land** of Judah and there earn your bread by prophesying! <sup>13</sup>But **never again prophesy** in Bethel; for it is the king’s sanctuary and a royal temple.” <sup>14</sup>Amos answered Amaziah, “I am not a prophet,\* nor do I belong to a company of prophets. I am a herdsman and a dresser of sycamores, <sup>15</sup>but **the LORD took me** from following the flock, and the LORD **said to me, ‘Go, prophesy to my people Israel.’**”

**THE FOCUS: The Difficult Experience of the Prophet (sent by God, rejected by men)**

### COMMENTARY

- Amos is sent by God to prophesy in the Northern Kingdom.
- His message: destruction of the sanctuary, the royal house and the captivity of the people
- Amaziah, the priest of the sanctuary of Bethel, drives away Amos, back to Judea where he comes from.

### REFLECTIONS

When you allow God to speak through you, you will experience resistance and rejection, because the message you carry is not good to hear.

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### RESPONSORIAL PSALM (Ps 85:9-10)

LORD, LET US SEE YOUR KINDNESS,  
AND GRANT US YOUR SALVATION.

### SECOND READING (Eph 1:3-14)

#### *Doxology to the Father*

<sup>3\*</sup> Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord **Jesus Christ**, who has blessed us in Christ with every spiritual blessing in the heavens,\* <sup>4d</sup>as he chose us in him, before the foundation of the world, to be holy and without blemish before him. In love <sup>5e</sup>he destined us for adoption to himself through Jesus Christ, in accord with the favor of his will, <sup>6f</sup>for the praise of the glory of his grace that he granted us in the beloved.

#### *Jesus Christ*

<sup>7g</sup>**In him** we have redemption by his blood, the forgiveness of transgressions, in accord with the riches of his grace <sup>8h</sup>that he lavished upon us. In all wisdom and insight, <sup>9i</sup>**he has made known** to us the mystery\* of his will in accord with his favor that he set forth in him <sup>10j</sup>as a plan for the fullness of times, to sum up all things in Christ, in heaven and on earth.<sup>11k</sup>**In him** we were also chosen, destined in accord with the purpose of the One who accomplishes all things according to the intention of his will, <sup>12</sup>so that we might exist for the praise of his glory, we who first hoped\* **in Christ**. <sup>13l</sup>**In him** you also, who have heard the word of truth, the gospel of your salvation, and have believed in him, were sealed\* with the promised holy Spirit, <sup>14m</sup>which is the first installment\* of our inheritance toward redemption as God’s possession, to the praise of his glory.

**THE FOCUS: On Jesus Christ Himself, through whom God showers His Blessings Upon Us**

**COMMENTARY**

- This Reading is a very important Christological formulation contained in the letter to the Ephesians.
- It reveals the Father’s will for us:
  - To be holy and blameless
  - To adopt us as his children
- It affirms who Christ is in relation to the Father and in relation to us.
- It enumerates what Christ does for us:
  - Redemption by his blood (v.7)
  - Forgiveness (v.8)
  - Reveals mystery of his will (v.9)
  - Has chosen us (v.10)
- The purpose / end:
  - For the praise of the glory... (v.6)
  - To sum up all things in Christ... (v.10)
  - To exist for the praise of his glory (v.12)
  - To be redeemed as God’s possession, to the praise of his glory.
- 13 times mentioned: the praise of his glory (vv. 6,12,14)

**REFLECTIONS**

All God wants us to be is to live according to what we are destined to be and to do.

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**GOSPEL READING (Mk 6:7-13)**

<sup>7</sup>He summoned the Twelve\* and began to **send them out two by two** and gave them authority over unclean spirits. <sup>8</sup>He instructed them to take nothing for the journey but a walking stick—no food, no sack, no money in their belts. <sup>9</sup>They were, however, to wear sandals but not a second tunic. <sup>10</sup>He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave from there. <sup>11</sup>Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you, leave

there and shake the dust off your feet in testimony against them.” <sup>12</sup>**So they went off** and preached repentance. <sup>13</sup>\* They drove out many demons, and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

**THE FOCUS: The Mission of the Twelve**

**COMMENTARY**

- The text belongs to the first part of the Mark’s gospel entitled “the Mystery of Jesus” (1:14-8:26).
- This part slowly builds up the image of Jesus as the Christ. Many people are asking who he is. In the previous passages, people ask who he is (even storm obey him, where did he get his teachings?).
- Jesus sending the 12 as missionaries, plain and simple:
  - Be simple; don’t appear sophisticated; no aura of superiority; no paraphernalia; don’t force yourself to anybody.
  - Preach repentance.
- The 12 were effective in their ministry:
  - They cast out demons.
  - They healed the sick.
- It is presumed that they listened to the instructions of Jesus.

**REFLECTIONS**

The success in the mission depends not on the paraphernalia, not on the things you bring, but on your simplicity, sincerity, courage and authenticity.

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**III. OUR CONTEXT**

1. How was it when you were commissioned by your church or community/congregation for a mission outside your hometown? Who helped you accomplish things? (HM)