

## Covenant Life

- Our next prayer meeting will be **today at 3pm**. We plan to have Children's ministry and a Formation I teaching.
- [GodsDelight.org](https://GodsDelight.org) has prayer meeting [audio](#), [summaries](#), [transcripts](#), and [teachings](#).
- Your ongoing financial support to the Community is sincerely appreciated. Please donate online [here](#) or mail your donations to P.O. Box 225008 Dallas, TX 75222.

## Reflection

Laurie and I became evangelists for formal training of our children when we saw the results. When they were young, we followed the advice from a couple of books and realized that formal training was an effective way of accomplishing the task of training our children in behavior as a basis for later reaching their hearts.

This came to mind as I read the [Gospel](#) today and asked myself the question why Jesus sent the disciples out on the mission with no provisions. Ponder this for a moment. Jesus had been modeling preaching, teaching, and praying for healing for a long time before he sent the disciples out two-by-two. He could have just sent them out and instructed them to follow His example and do the same.

But no, he discerned to make the challenge of following His example, and carrying out the mission even more difficult... Why add the extra burden of doing it without provisions? I know I never leave on any trip without very carefully packing and double checking that I have everything I need (to be safe, comfortable, and provided for...).

Well, maybe that is the answer. He was trying to train them that they did **not** need to be safe, feel comfortable or provided for. Maybe He was trying to train them about a spiritual truth by using everyday circumstances...

Reflecting on this passage convinced me that Jesus was teaching and training His disciples the spiritual lesson of needing to depend on the power of God rather than relying on their natural abilities. Jesus knew that as they experienced God's Divine Providence in food and housing, it would build their faith so that they could depend on His Divine Providence in responding to the Apostolic mission He was sending them on.

Imagining the scene, the first day they left Jesus they would have arrived some place with no food, no place to stay, and no money. We know from the passage that

they were successful in the mission so they must have been provided for. Each day they received the food and housing they needed. How this must have built their faith in God. We can see how this growth in faith must have given them tremendous power in healing the sick, casting out demons...

This message builds on the one from last Sunday about the importance of faith. God is sending us out on mission every day. We can learn from the training of the disciples that it is not about our talents, skills, resources, but about our faith and trust in His Divine Providence.

Let us take a few minutes to ask ourselves what can we do today to demonstrate that we have learned this lesson? What attachments do we need to break? What might be holding us back from leaving our comfort zones and going out on the journey God wants for us? Are there practical ways that we can prove our detachment from this world? Who might God be specifically asking me to share the Good News with? How can I grow my confidence and conquer my fear about fulfilling the mission He is calling me to?

Let us pray, "Heavenly Father, I want to be used by You to accomplish Your perfect will. Show me anything in my life that might be holding me back from obediently following You. Give me Your Holy Spirit to empower my Yes and overcome all attachments and obstacles that might get in my way. Reveal Yourself in small ways to me as I take little steps in my life to build my faith as You built the faith of Jesus' disciples. Use me to fully accomplish the mission You are calling me to. I love You and give my whole life to You! Amen"

God Bless,

David