

Opening Prayer for ISET - 14 August 2023

Gospel Contemplation:

Matthew 10

1 The prayer was no sooner prayed than it was answered. Jesus called twelve of his followers and sent them into the ripe fields. He gave them power to kick out the evil spirits and to tenderly care for the bruised and hurt lives.

2 This is the list of the twelve he sent: Simon (they called him Peter, or "Rock"), Andrew, his brother, James, Zebedee's son, John, his brother,

3 Philip, Bartholomew, Thomas, Matthew, the tax man, James, son of Alphaeus, Thaddaeus,

4 Simon, the Canaanite, Judas Iscariot (who later turned on him).

5 Jesus sent his twelve harvest hands out with this charge:

6 Go to the lost, confused people right here in the neighborhood.

7 Tell them that the kingdom is here.

8 Bring health to the sick. Raise the dead. Touch the untouchables. Kick out the demons. You have been treated generously, so live generously.

9 "Don't think you have to put on a fund-raising campaign before you start.

10 You don't need a lot of equipment. You are the equipment, and all you need to keep that going is three meals a day. Travel light.

11 "When you enter a town or village, don't insist on staying in a luxury inn. Get a modest place with some modest people, and be content there until you leave.

12 "When you knock on a door, be courteous in your greeting.

13 If they welcome you, be gentle in your conversation.

14 If they don't welcome you, quietly withdraw. Don't make a scene. Shrug your shoulders and be on your way.

Closing Prayer

98 Eternal Lord of all things I feel your gaze upon me. I sense that your mother and your disciples stand near, watching, and that with you are all the great beings of heaven - angels and powers and martyrs and saints.

Lord Jesus, I feel you have put a desire in me. If you will help me, please, I would like to make my offering: I want it to be my desire, and my choice, provided that you want it, too, to live my life as you lived yours.

I know that you lived an insignificant person in a little despised town: I know that you rarely tasted luxury and never, privilege, and that you resolutely refused to accept power. I know that you suffered rejection by leaders, abandonment by friends, and failure. I know, I can hardly bear the thought of it all.

But it seems a toweringly wonderful thing that you might call me to follow you and stand with you. I will labour with you to bring God's reign, if you will give me the gift to do it. Amen.

