

Lent Day 14
Thursday February 25, 2016

Reading: Mark 6.7-13

Reflection

As I understand it, compass readings are very important in wilderness trekking. If you set out in the slightly wrong direction and do no course correction, by the end of your leg you'll be way off your target — which could be very dangerous.

Lent is a bit like that I think. We recognize it is a time to intentionally do self-examination as well as allowing the Spirit to examine us. We want to work through repentance and prepare ourselves to come to the cross once again on Good Friday. These are all good things, but if they aren't held in the larger vision of the kingdom we can end up in the wrong place!

The kingdom of God has come in the rule, in the person of Jesus. This is good news for Israel and good news for the world. Jesus sends out the twelve to amplify his own mission but also as training for after the resurrection and the pouring out of the Spirit on the church. Jesus shares his authority with them, he gives them instruction and they duplicate what he has been doing in his own ministry with them present.

God desires us to use the season of Lent to do good self-examination and for us to prepare for the cross. However, if that is done without this larger context of being the sent people of God who share in the mission of God to the world then it becomes just spiritual narcissism. If our clean, repentant, prepared hearts don't have an outward impulse they have not prepared properly. You and I have been prepared to share in the mission of God; to preach repentance, to drive out demons, to anoint and heal the sick.

Prayer

God of mission, you have made us for your glory and we worship you. Prepare us to encounter your cross once again. Also, prepare us to put on our sandals and go to the world with your good news of the kingdom. Amen.