

BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

June 18, 2023 • 11th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Matthew 9:36–10:8

Give Without Payment

Jesus continues to preach his message of forgiveness and love. As he looks out over the faces in the crowd, Scripture tells us his heart is moved because he sees so many people who are troubled and abandoned. “Like sheep without a shepherd,” Jesus sees this as a universal problem and sends his apostles out into pagan lands to minister to all people.

The apostles were not lost sheep. They weren't troubled or abandoned. They had found their shepherd. Each day Jesus helped them see their individual gifts and worth. He nurtured them with love and compassion on a daily basis, and then he sent them out because the gifts God freely gives are meant to be shared. The apostles were not lost sheep. They weren't troubled or abandoned. They had found their shepherd. Each day Jesus helped them see their individual gifts and worth. He nurtured them with love and compassion on a daily basis, and then he sent them out because the gifts God freely gives are meant to be shared.

We have all been blessed with unique gifts and talents, and like the apostles we are expected to appreciate them and freely share them. Unfortunately, for me it is much easier to talk and write about this fact than it is to take it to heart.

Sometimes just accepting that I have a gift is a problem. People tell me how good my stew is, and I will tell them it was way too salty. The fact is I am a pretty good cook, but it has taken me years to learn how to say a simple “thank you” to the person who gives me a compliment.

The point is even if your only gift is that you can make the best goshdarned oatmeal in the world, you should have the grace to share it with whom-

ever you can. If you were gifted with a college education or a good profession, you should try to do some pro-bono work, sharing those gifts with folks who need your help.

Finally, God has gifted us with the privilege of parenting—accept it and practice it by helping your children discover their own gifts. Like Jesus did for his apostles, help them see their individual gifts and worth. Nurture them with love and compassion on a daily basis. And finally, affirm, counsel and support them as they learn to develop and share their gifts with others.

FAMILY RESPONSE

Have each family member mention a gift of the other members. You might want to write responses down before you share. Practice saying thank you.

PERSONAL RESPONSE

What gift has God given you that you are most proud of? What gift would you like to develop more fully?