

**Sermon Summary**  
**7<sup>th</sup> after Pentecost**  
**7<sup>th</sup> July 2013**

- The sending out of Jesus' 70 or 72 happens in a very different time or place from ours. Can we still learn from it.
- First we need to note that Jesus speaks to the recently appointed. They are to pray for the mission workers.
- How often when we pray for missionary workers, do we subtly pray for others to do the work? Often we live a wrong paraphrase of Isaiah- "here am I, send him..." Here, the call would seem to include praying for themselves- appointed for the task.
- We, too, are appointed- by virtue of our baptism and participation in the Eucharist- these empower us to go out into the world to share the good news of the gospel.
- The disciples go- they do not fuss around with endless preparations. We all know the reality- we can be so focussed on making sure we are ready that we never go anywhere....
- They offer people "Peace"- we too should be preaching that we offer people the way to be at peace, free from stress etc.
- How might they get this "peace"- from following the advice given by God – here signified by the Kingdom of God. Note that we do better to call this advice. Modernity struggles with being commanded.
- Not, too, that the disciples stay and eat. What does this mean for us- *kashrut* laws about food and purity are not part of our context? Eating together does signify kinship respect and affinity- we rarely eat with enemies. So this suggests we treat people with respect and civility rather than demonise them as the unchurched or outsiders.
- And what of dealing with those who will not listen? The language he is not of cursing or banishment, but serves to remind of the real choices that need to be made. Those who choose to distance themselves from God distance themselves too from the blessings which come from following God's advice for the good life.

7 July 2013