

Celebrating Extraordinary Missionary Month October 2019...

Thursday, 3 October 2019
Living and Dying for Christ (Lk 10:1-12)
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In the face of the rat-race for power in the modern world, few wish to be known for their weakness. Most would rather be known for strength, wealth and power. In a culture where the leaders brag about how wide their chest is, we are intrigued by the man from Nazareth who advocates another kind of power; your power is in the powerless. The exhortation that identifies the Christian disciples as “lambs among wolves” is not an easy sell, especially to the moderns. Nobody wants that. Consider the options: On the one hand, the wolves possess impressive strength, speed, aggression and has perfect teamwork and on the other hand, lambs are weak, slow and are unable to defend themselves. Take any average group of teenagers today and ask them to choose between the two animals and most of them would be totally bowled over by the wolf and would totally be unimpressed with the lamb. How to make sense of a text that identifies the Christian disciples as “lambs among wolves” in a culture that drills our children to admire “wolves among lambs?”

Despite this propensity of the modern people, Jesus’ instruction points to vulnerability. Lambs are protected from wolves and other predators because they are helpless to defend themselves. It is this vulnerability that is the key to seeing the connection Jesus is making between His followers and lambs. Jesus’ disciples are to proclaim the gospel through loving witness not warfare. Christian disciples are vulnerable to attack and suffering as they carry out the mission – they have ever been.

Sense the danger involved. Vulnerability and danger written all over the mission. But, Jesus has also said: “I am with you always, to the end of the age.” (Mt 28: 20). However, for most of us the thought of vulnerability for the sake of Christ is frightening because of the thought of dying. Persecution and the possibility of death at the hands of the wolves for the sake of Christ is not something most of us wake up eager to do in the morning. Think this way: before we ever commit to dying for Christ, let us commit to begin living for Christ – the perfect Christian witnessing.

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