

15th SUNDAY YEAR B 2021.

INSTRUMENTS OF THE GOSPEL.

Today's first reading and the gospel are calling us to be instruments of the word of God in our current world. We are called to be **participants not only listeners**. We are called not only to **keep the faith but also to spread it to others**.

Amos was not anywhere near the lineage of the prophets by any chance but was **called by God** from a **mere shepherd and a sycamore tree dresser to do the work of a professional prophet**. He was called **by God to do his will** and he became a **champion of social Justice**. The same applies to the apostles coming from a mere batch of **fishermen**.

Jesus **called them, instructed them, and sent them** to be participants and take an active part in the mission of spreading the Gospel. Their mission was to be an extension of Christ's mission of preaching **Repentance**.

*All of us, regardless of our background, culture, language, color, or political affiliations are called to the same mission. **What is your response?***

We do not have to have degrees in philosophy, theology, spirituality, or biblical studies to be partners in the mission. What we need is **faith, care, generosity, and love above everything else**. We are called in the ministry of **singing, altar serving, lecturing, Eucharistic ministering, or ushering**. We deliver the Gospel to the whole world through these ministries. How are you participating in all these? The apostles answered the call and were given **power to heal and authority to confront evil spirits** thus giving liberation from the fear of the devil. They were further instructed that wherever they are not accepted they

should not waste time but to have nothing to do with that village. Even they should leave and proceed to other places.

Jesus having called, instructed, and sent them, he involved them in the mission thus trusting them. He needed them. He needs you and me in this divine mission. He can see our talents and our potentialities and wants to use them. He wants to establish His church on human beings and on earth, not on Angels and in heaven. He did his work, the Apostles did their work, now the duty and responsibility are on you and me. He is calling us to involvement according to our **talents, age, and circumstance** to witness to Him in the world. He is telling you and me, **“I have no hands, eyes, hands, feet, ears BUT YOURS.”** Are you going to give him yours in the spreading of the gospel? He sends his apostles two by two to **give support and as a sign of community.** Are we working like a community to preach Christ? Are we instruments of His Gospel in this volatile world? We will be rejected like Amos and the apostles, but the mission must go on. We are not alone; He is with us. **“Behold I will be with you till the end time.”** This is the most encouraging factor as INSTRUMENTS.

Our prayer then should be that of St. Francis today.

Lord make me an instrument of your Healing power:

-Where there is hatred let me sow love

-where there is injury, pardon

-Where there is doubt, faith.

-Where there is darkness, light.

-Where there is despair, hope.

-Where there is sadness, joy.

This is our responsibility as instruments of the Word.

