

Encountering the Word

with Jeff Cavins

Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time (A)

Exodus 19:2–6a • Romans 5:6–11 • Matthew 9:36–10:8



Life on Mission

When Jesus called the twelve apostles, he did not gather them to simply remain in his company. Almost immediately he sent them out with a mission. This pattern reveals the heart of discipleship: We are first called to encounter him, then we are formed in his presence, and finally we are sent to bear witness in the world. Faith is never meant to be contained; it is given so that others may encounter God through us.

The Gospel (or Good News), often described as the *kerygma*, is simple yet life-changing. God loves us and has a plan for our lives. Sin has disrupted that plan and wounded our relationship with God. Jesus gave his life to free us from sin and restore us to communion with the Father. Our response is repentance and faith, a radical reorienting of our lives toward Christ. Through Baptism we receive the Holy Spirit, who seals us as members of God's family and strengthens us to live in love.

St. Paul reminds us that Christ died for us while we were still sinners. This truth shatters every excuse to remain silent. The love we have received cannot be contained but must be shared. Paul says, "we also boast of God" (Romans 5:11). Just as the disciples were first sent to the lost sheep of Israel, so too we are sent to those in our families, workplaces, and communities who are searching for hope.

The Church does not exist for herself but for the sake of the world! When we gather for prayer, study, and worship, it should lead us outward into mission. The same Spirit who empowered the Twelve continues to work through us today. The harvest remains abundant, and Christ invites us to go where he sends.



Living the Gospel

This week, practice articulating the Gospel simply in your own words. Write it down, pray with it, and ask the Holy Spirit to open opportunities to share it naturally in daily life. Even a small conversation with a neighbor, friend, or coworker can become a seed of grace when you courageously speak of God's love.

Dive Deeper

Scan this code to watch:



Or go to <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=7xqApuCex44>

Ponder and Pray

» The disciples were first gathered by Jesus and then sent outward with his authority. How do you balance time for prayer and formation with time for mission and witness? Do you find yourself leaning too heavily on one at the expense of the other?

» The message of the Gospel is not complicated, yet many of us hesitate to share it. What fears or insecurities keep you from speaking openly about God’s love, the reality of sin, and the hope we have in Christ? How might the Holy Spirit be inviting you to grow in courage and clarity?

“At the sight of the crowds, his heart was moved with pity for them because they were troubled and abandoned, like sheep without a shepherd. Then he said to his disciples, ‘The harvest is abundant, but the laborers are few; so ask the master of the harvest to send out laborers for his harvest.’”
—Matthew 9:36–38

Make It Your Own
You and others in your household may use this space to write anything about today’s Mass. It might be your view of Jeff Cavins’s reflection, your priest’s homily, or your answers to the questions on this page—anything to help you and your household get the most of today’s Mass.

» Jesus sent the disciples first to the “lost sheep of Israel,” showing that mission begins close to home. Who in your family, workplace, or parish community may be longing to hear words of hope, forgiveness, or encouragement? How can you be attentive to the opportunities God places before you each day?
