

He gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases

Homily, 23th September, 2020

Lk 9,1-6

father Giuseppe Paparone op

He summoned the Twelve and gave them power and authority over all demons and to cure diseases, and he sent them to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal (the sick). He said to them, "Take nothing for the journey, neither walking stick, nor sack, nor food, nor money, and let no one take a second tunic. Whatever house you enter, stay there and leave from there. And as for those who do not welcome you, when you leave that town, shake the dust from your feet in testimony against them."
Then they set out and went from village to village proclaiming the good news and curing diseases everywhere.

The readings we have listened to fit well the liturgic memory of father Pious, Saint Pious from Pietralcina.

This piece of the Gospel is an excerpt of the ecclesial speech reported by the evangelists where the apostles are given indications on how they can continue Jesus' saving mission: through great **sobriety and essentiality**.

Two qualities that have been widely disregarded by the Church, except from a few enlightened ones, we may say, such as for instance St. Dominic and St. Francis; the Mendicant Orders were born exactly to act this *Word*: *Go two by two... Don't bring two tunics...*

St. Pious has certainly embodied this page, even if in a completely reversed way. In this piece we read that the apostles toured the world to announce the Gospel and to cure diseases; on the contrary the world went to father Pious (anyway, it is the same).

He had this extraordinary charisma which we can summarize in a very simple way for us who run the risk of being always succubi of intellectualism and erudition – two very beautiful human aspects but scarcely useful to live the Gospel.

So, briefly, we can say that **father Pious has been a person who lived joint to the Lord, fullstop! Father Pious' notable force derived from this, the world went to him and he cured and acted.**

Nevertheless, I think that these things aren't reserved to St. Pious only; they should be a capacity of all preachers.

So, I ask myself: why am I not able to do this?

Clearly, because I don't fully live in communion with God.

Clearly, God is not the only important thing of my life; there have been others.

Tonight, we have here few young people, I see three of them; we who are aged must go to the essential, we cannot lose our time, because we have little time!

I hence give you this essential thought; if you cultivate it every day and make it the foundation of your faith, you wouldn't need anything because you would enter God's Kingdom.

The Book of the Proverbs says:

*I ask you two things: **keep all lies far away from me**: it means living in purity and transparency forever.*

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By the way, I suggest you the following examination of your conscience: **are your relationships always free from falseness, hypocrisy, ambiguity?**

Normally, we say that even between husband and wife we cannot say everything, the same between parents and children: there's always something to hide...

The second assertion from the Book of Proverbs, which literally "wear" us out: *don't give me either poverty or richness.*

Let's think of how free is the heart of this person!

Don't give me either poverty or richness, that is, give me only that piece of bread I need, that dress that I need, that little house I need. That's all, all the rest is vanity.

If we all lived this *Word*, we could all become as father Pious.

Do not seek either poverty or richness means **tearing ourselves away from everything, really living for God. And the one who lives in communion with God operates together with Him in the History and saves the world!**

Let's ask father Pious to help us save the little world which is inside our heart and around us.