

Hugh's Sermon for Sunday 14th June 2020 – Pentecost +2

In The Name of Our Creator. The Son Our Saviour and Redeemer.
And The Triune Spirit who is with Us Always.

Our Gospel today has two parts, A brief summary of the apostolic activity of Jesus. And the beginning of the Sermon of Mission. In Matthew 10:1,5-8, in Matthew 9:35, we have a summary of the apostolic activity of Jesus. “ Jesus went through the villages, teaching in the synagogues, proclaiming the God of the people, In words and action, curing all kinds of illness” Matthew describes in a few words the central points of the missionary activity of Jesus, for he travelled to the villages, Jesus did not wait for people to come to him, but to do his Fathers work, Jesus goes out into the gathering of people in their home and to communities. Jesus goes to the communities where they are worshipping the one True God, and it is there he proclaims how they have strayed for God, Jesus proclaims the Good News, Jesus does not teach doctrine of the Temple, but in everything Jesus says and does there emerges the Spirit of God, and through Gods Spirit Jesus cures all kinds of illness, and what makes the difference is the way Jesus accepts all kinds of people to him. Jesus relieves them of their pain. The love of God Spirit in Jesus, is shown as he speaks to the people, Jesus feels for their pain because they have been rejected by society. People were like sheep without a shepherd.. Jesus accepts all people as they are, Jesus shows he is the Servant of the Father, Jesus shows the Love of the Father in him to all the people, Jesus is the Servant of the Father, so he shows his love by becoming their shepherd, Jesus receives the Fathers Spirit and tells the people how great Gods love is for them. The immensity of the mission that Jesus sets for his disciples, he asks them to pray to the Father, to give them courage in what they do in Jesus name and the One True God, Jesus tells his disciples “the harvest is rich but the laborers are few”. Prayer is the first form of commitment for the disciples on the start of the great commission, as it should be for you and I in what you and I do in the Name of the Triune Spirit. Jesus gave the disciples the power of Gods Spirit to cure in the name of this Son, to and authority over unclean spirits. The second thing that Jesus did was to ask the disciples not to teach doctrine and laws. My brothers and sisters we have our sacraments which helps us to have a greater personal relationship with the Triune Spirit, Jesus did not want the doctrine of the temple to be put to the test, but to show the people the way of the One True God. and their purpose in Creation. Jesus wanted to help people, by following in his ways, the ways of the Father, to overcome the unclean spirits, and the struggle against illness. Today, what often frightens people are certain missionaries who threaten them that God will punish them. Matthew 10:5-6 Jesus tells the disciples, Go first to the lost sheep of the House of Israel. Jesus sends out the twelve, and said to them{ Do not make your way to any gentile town, and do not enter any Samaritan town} “But go instead to the lost sheep of Israel”. At the beginning, the mission of Jesus was directed to the lost sheep of the House of Israel” but who were these lost sheep of the House of Israel? Were they the persons who were excluded, for example, the prostitutes, tax collectors, the unclean who were considered lost and condemned by the religious leaders, were they those of the upper class, the Pharisees, the Sadducees, the elders and priests who considered themselves the faithful of the One True God. Or were they the crowds, of tired and the unfortunate people as sheep without a shepherd? YES, here in the context of the Gospel of Matthew, it is these poor and abandoned people who Jesus sought. Jesus wanted the disciples to understand these poor the people who need the relationship and love of The One True God. This was their mission for God, so that they would know the Love of God. It is these poor people and abandoned people who are accepted by Jesus. Jesus wanted the disciples to understand why God has sent Jesus to do the will of the Father. In Matthews Gospel he gives us an example, the Canaanite woman, a lost sheep of another race and another religion who wishes to be heard, Jesus repeats to his disciples” I have been sent only to the lost sheep of Israel”. It is at the insistence of the mother who does not cease to intercede for her daughter that Jesus defends himself saying: “it is not fair to take the children’s food and throw it to the dogs”. But the reaction of the mother changes the attitude of Jesus: “ Ah, yes, Lord. But even little, little dogs eat the scraps that fall from their masters table”. The answer of the woman counters the argument of Jesus. He takes care of the woman. Jesus listens to the woman: “ woman, you have great faith: let your desire be granted”. And from that moment her daughter was well again. Through the attention given to the lost sheep of the world. Jesus shows that throughout the world there are lost sheep who hunger for all the scraps from his table. Matthew 10:7-8 gives us a summary of Gods mission for

Jesus, and Jesus says. “ Go instead to the lost sheep of the house of Israel. And as you go Proclaim the Love of the One True God. For God said, “I am Your God, You are my People”. Jesus tells the disciples, Go, For the Spirit of God is with you. Cure the sick, Cleanse those who are suffering, and bring Comfort to all. You receive without charge, give all without charge, Serve all the people. My brothers and sisters. You and I receive the same mission given by Jesus to the disciples, are we aware of our mission? And living in the Spirit of the Triune God. To Serve.