

One the Road But not with Bing/Bob

Intro. I wonder how the thirty-six pairs in the gospel were selected. Was it random (count off one/two) or purposefully (you're a good speaker and you're a good organizer, you're together). Maybe two agreed to be partners or maybe they were just thrown together. The Lord was a smart leader. He wanted them to succeed so he gave each of the disciples what they needed.

I. This time when he sent out the messengers, it was a bit more than just making hotel reservations. The disciples had several years of listening and watching the Lord work. Before he go to Jerusalem, he wanted to find out how well they had paid attention. This was where the leather met the road. He didn't just throw them out there; he prepared

them and gave them some tools. Some of them must have been anxious not just about finding a place to stay and food to eat, but about how they would be received by people. Remember the experience they already had from a hostile Samaritan village. They were *still* in unfriendly territory. Out they went, without much except the Word of God and the Lord's authority. *And each other.* That was important. The Lord was taking care of them. They had someone to travel with for safety. Someone with whom they could share the successes and the failures. The disciples returned jubilant and exhilarated. Imagine the high fives and backslapping as they told their stories. The Lord welcomed them back with praise for their hard work. He also brought them back to the reality that it wasn't about the power of making Satan fall like

lightning from the sky; it was that their names were written in heaven, they had preached the grace and salvation with Christ.

Concl. When we go to work or school at a new place, there is always a learning curve. It is a time for us to realize how much we *don't know*, to learn how the work gets done and our part of it. The disciples had their opportunity. *We* have been trained for discipleship through our family, religious education and by our experience with the Lord.

There is an incredible array of tools for us to use: scripture, tradition, the holy people in our lives, books, pod casts. I have told you this before: I was a very shy kid. After I was ordained a deacon, part of my duties was to preach at some of the Sunday Masses. My mother came a few times and marveled at the change in me, standing in front of several

hundred people and talking. I told her I didn't understand it either. What I *came* to understand was that when the Lord calls us to work for him, he also gives us what we need. The Lord sends out each of us into his kingdom and gives us the "tools" necessary to do his work. We have to use all in our resources to show the Lord is part of our lives and make people **want what we have**. We can do amazing things too. We have the necessary "tools" the Lord gives to each of us.

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July 7, 2019