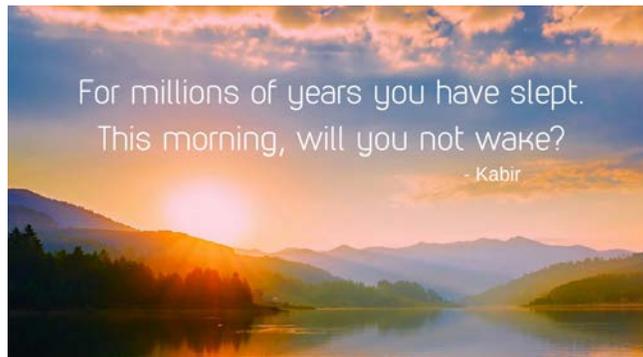


THIS WEEK'S SCRIPTURES
The Fifteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time
July 15, 2018
Amos 7:12-15 + Ephesians 1:13-14 + Mark 6: 7-13



Reflection by: Ann Marie Rimmer, OP

It occurred to me when I read the Scriptures, especially a familiar Gospel passage, my mind tends to go in the same way! I “know” what Jesus is inviting me to. But when I encountered Kabir’s saying, I challenged myself to wake up and to view the passage with new eyes.

Both the reading from Amos and Paul’s Letter to the Ephesians have a familiar theme: call and response. Amos is encouraged to preach the prophetic message. He acknowledges his weakness. “I am not a prophet. I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores.” Yet he hears God’s call and is challenged to go to Judah to preach to the Israelites.

Paul’s letter reminds us that God chose us in Christ before the foundation of the world. Believers were chosen, not because they were holy and blameless, but *that they might be* holy and blameless. All this was done to bring to fulfillment, Christ’s plan to gather all things together in Christ. Being sealed with Holy Spirit we are challenged to share Christ’s vision of a peaceful and just world.

The Gospel recounts the first missionary venture of the apostles. They are given specific instructions on what they are to take with them and how to act, and are given, through Jesus, the power to heal and to drive out unclean spirits. Jesus prepares them for possible failure. There is no guarantee they will be received or that the message they bring will be heeded.

What message we are invited to proclaim, realizing we like Amos and the apostles don’t have all the answers; we are not perfect. Matthew Fox in a recent book, *Meister Eckhart, A Mystic Warrior for Our Times*, gives us the four E’s to consider.

***Deep Ecumenism** that invites us to go beyond dogma and doctrine to seek the truth and wonder in all world religions.

***Deep Ecology** that challenges us to do all we can to save Mother Earth, our common home.

***Deep Economics** that invites us to seek a total revision in the way we view our economic system and to work for the common good.

***Deep Education** that trains both the right brain and the left brain *and the mystical brain* so we can find creative solutions to our world’s complex problem.

Perhaps we need to respond to Jesus’ call through the lens of our mystics.