Chapter nine brings us to a turning point in Luke’s Gospel. He has come down from the Mount of Transfiguration, healed a demon-possessed boy, and made the first prediction of how his earthly life will end. Then Luke gives us this verse:

“When the days drew near for him to be taken up, he set his face to go to Jerusalem. And he sent messengers ahead of him.” Luke 951-52

So begins what is known as Luke’s travel narrative. Jesus is on the move. He sends out seventy of his followers to proclaim the kingdom of God. They are his messengers, his advance guard. His encounters provide opportunities for timeless instruction.

If you want to know who is your neighbor, study the story of the Good Samaritan. Then, as Jesus told the inquiring lawyer: “Go and do likewise.” Luke 10:37

If you find yourself struggling to bring balance and time for contemplation into your life, consider our Lord’s visit with Mary and Martha. The story is found in Luke 10:38-42

If you seek an approach to deepen your prayer life, sit with Jesus’ response to his disciples’ request: “When you pray, say: Father, hallowed be your name. …” Luke 11:2

Each of these passages provide ways to strengthen and deepen our faith. They also provide ways for us to join with the seventy as Christ’s messengers and bringers of his light of love. But before we journey into the world, Jesus asks us in Luke 11:33-36 to make sure we are bringing light and not darkness.

Patricia provided wonderful questions for us to bring to our prayer life: What is the light within me? How do I follow Christ? These questions can only be answered by discernment and self-reflection, by the close examination of our hearts.

Here is a quote from Hesychius of Batos, a priest and monk from ancient times: “One who watches carefully over the heart will quickly see how the heart of its own nature is emitting light. As a coal catches fire, or as a fire lights a candle, so does God set our heart ablaze as it looks in contemplation at him who is dwelling in our heart.”

Grace, peace and we will be looking for you on Zoom this Thursday at 6 p.m. as we continue to study the greatness of the Lord.

Fr. Dion and Patricia