

GOSPEL PEARLS

In the heart

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26_01_2022



The Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them out ahead of him, in pairs, to all the towns and places he himself was to visit. He said to them, 'The harvest is rich but the labourers are few, so ask the Lord of the harvest to send labourers to his harvest. Start off now, but remember, I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Carry no purse, no haversack, no sandals. Salute no one on the road. Whatever house you go into, let your first words be, "Peace to this house!" And if a man of peace lives there, your peace will go and rest on him; if not, it will come back to you. Stay in the same house, taking what food and drink

they have to offer, for the labourer deserves his wages; do not move from house to house. Whenever you go into a town where they make you welcome, eat what is set before you. Cure those in it who are sick, and say, "The kingdom of God is very near to you." (Luke 10, 1-9)

The "children of peace" that Jesus speaks about are the people of good will, who, without prejudice, listen to His Word and by accepting it, put it into practice. The Kingdom of God is firstly Jesus who comes close to mankind, to his sufferings, hopes and limitations. The disciples, therefore, when they bring the Word of God to others, they bring them the Kingdom, that is, Jesus Himself. Whoever welcomes the Word of God, welcomes Jesus and will do His will. Try to make sure your heart is always pure enough to welcome Jesus every day.