



[Jesus said,] "Go on your way; behold, I am sending you like lambs among wolves."

LUKE 10:3

FREEDOM STUDIOS/SHUTTERSTOCK

Rebuild a City

There doesn't seem to be a period in human history when cities were not destroyed by war. This was the case in ancient Rome, Atlanta during the Civil War, Dresden in World War II, and more recently, Aleppo in Syria. The devastation of a city leaves the survivors of the tragedy in desperate straits. This is the situation to which Isaiah speaks in the first reading. His message is one of hope. Jerusalem will be rebuilt; it will flourish once again. God will "spread prosperity over her like a river" (Isaiah 66:12). This will not be accomplished through mere human effort, but through the power of God.

The passage from Luke tells us how God will accomplish such a feat. There we read that Jesus sent seventy-two followers to preach the gospel. The power of God will work through them. We know little about who they were, from which villages they came,

or how long they acted as itinerant preachers. They may simply have gone back to their own lives and ministered to their own people. Such information is inconsequential.

What is important is the fact that God works through the followers of Jesus, through you and me. It will be through us that lives are rebuilt, that people will thrive again. It will be through us that cities are no longer destroyed by war. Do we believe this? Are we willing to be sent "to every town and place he intended to visit" (Luke 10:1)?

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FOR Reflection

- * **Pope Francis insists that by virtue of baptism we are all missionary disciples. What does this mean for you?**
- * **How might you live this out in your life today?**

