

There is a story about two missionaries who were going door to door. They knocked on the door of one woman who was not happy to see them. She told them in no uncertain terms that she did not want to hear their message and slammed the door in their faces. To her surprise, however, the door did not close and, in fact, almost magically bounced back open. She tried again, really putting her back into it and slammed the door again with the same amazing results-the door bounced back open. Convinced that one of the missionaries was sticking their foot in the door, she reared back to give it a third slam. She felt this would really teach them a lesson. But before she could act, one of them stopped her and politely said, "Ma'am, before you do that again, you really should move your cat".

When Jesus sent out the seventy-two he prepared them for the fact that not everyone would accept their message of peace. He told them if they were not welcomed to wipe the dust of the town off their feet when leaving (Luke 10:10-11). We have a choice, to accept or reject Jesus' offer of peace, to accept or reject Jesus' offer of life and love. It seems some have decided against Jesus when you hear them saying that going to Mass on Sunday is not what is important, that what is important is treating others with kindness and in a Christian manner. I feel sad for any person who really believes that and ask myself could

such a person have really met Jesus? If they had met Jesus surely Sunday Mass would not be a burden but a joy and blessing. Being a Christian means that we are followers of Christ, and not just do-gooders. There is a big difference between being a do-gooder and being a Christian. A Christian is a do-gooder who has a close friendship with Jesus, and the life and love of that close friendship with Jesus flow to others. Where do we meet Jesus above all? In the Mass where the bread becomes his body and the wine becomes his precious blood. Having such a close friendship with Jesus that draws you to Mass every Sunday will bring you peace. We are not just bodies; we are body and soul, and we will never be fully happy unless we have God in our life. St Augustine said ***“You have made us for yourself O Lord, and our hearts are restless until they rest in You.”*** Those who say that Sunday Mass is not important, that what is important is doing good, are missing out on the soul of life! Jesus is not a burden to anyone, he is a blessing, and those who say that what matters is doing good, would do far more good if they had more of Jesus in their lives.

Jesus wants you to be at peace. He sent out the seventy-two with a message of peace. He prepared them for the fact that not everyone would accept their message of peace. Unfortunately some people now also reject Jesus' offer of life and love. If we reject Jesus' offer of peace

and love we certainly will not find peace anywhere in the world. Our only hope for peace is the peace of Jesus. **“Peace I leave you, my own peace I give you, a peace the world cannot give.”** (John 14:27)

This week, let us joyfully share the gift of Christ’s peace at home, at work, while running errands, everywhere we go! May we always be joyful missionary disciples of God and bring the gift of peace first always!

PEACE