

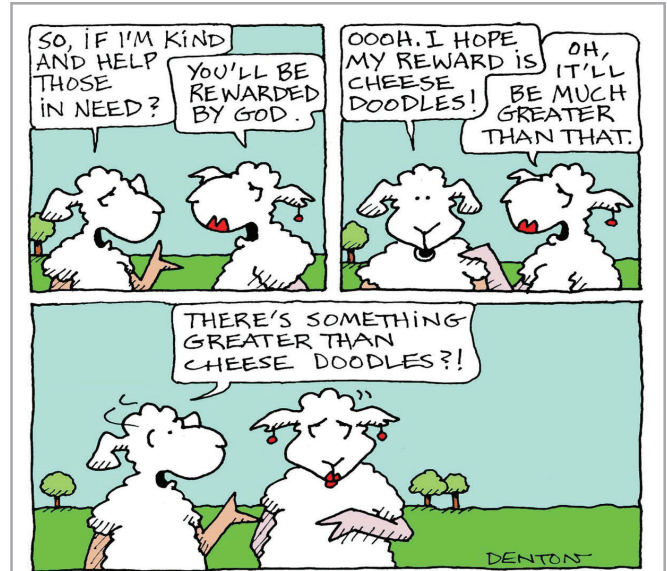
Heading Into Danger

This Week's Readings at Mass

- ▶ 1 Kings 19:16b, 19-21 - Call of Elisha
- ▶ Galatians 5:1, 13-18 - Proper use of freedom
- ▶ Luke 9:51-62 - The apostles' requirements

The Gospel reading today marks the beginning of a new section in Luke. Up until now, Jesus has been active healing and teaching in the region of Galilee, in the northern area of Palestine. Now, Luke tells us, Jesus “resolutely determined to journey to Jerusalem.” Readers of his day would have recognized this phrase as a warning of what was to come because everyone knew that prophets are killed in Jerusalem. Jesus showed he was willing to go into dangerous places, and he didn't try to hide. He even sends people ahead of him to let them know he is coming. At this point, Jesus' followers were probably becoming wary and a bit anxious about where faithfulness to Jesus was going to take them.

Jesus and his group could have chosen to go around rather than through Samaria where there was long-standing ill-will between Jews and Samaritans because of a disagreement about the role of Jerusalem in worship. Samaritans didn't take fondly to Jews passing through their land, especially when they were on their way to Jerusalem, but Jesus doesn't shy away from the conflict. Jesus still offers



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“You were called for freedom. But do not use this freedom as an opportunity for the flesh; rather, serve one another through love.”

Sheepish Question:

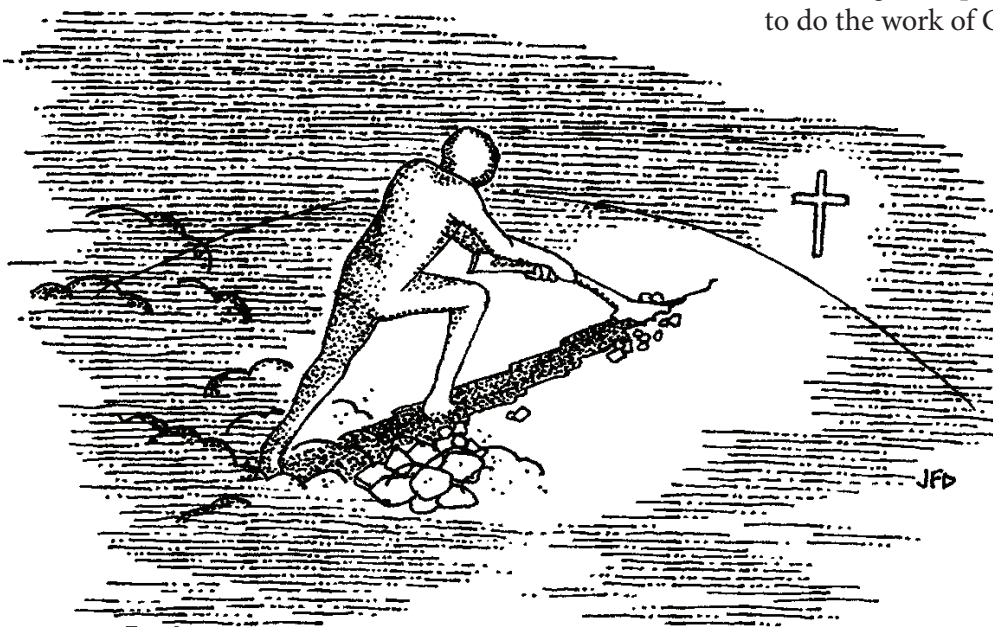
What WORTHY rewards of the Holy Spirit do I seek?

them a chance to accept him, but when they don't, James and John want to destroy the town because of their inhospitality. Instead of allowing his friends to react out of anger and vengeance, Jesus calmly demonstrates how to “shake the dust of your feet” and move on, as he had taught them to do earlier.

Questions of the Week

1 Who do you know who is willing to go into dangerous places (literally or metaphorically) to do the work of God?

2 When have you been asked to “shake the dust from your feet” and move on instead of responding with anger and judgment when you or someone you loved wasn't accepted?



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