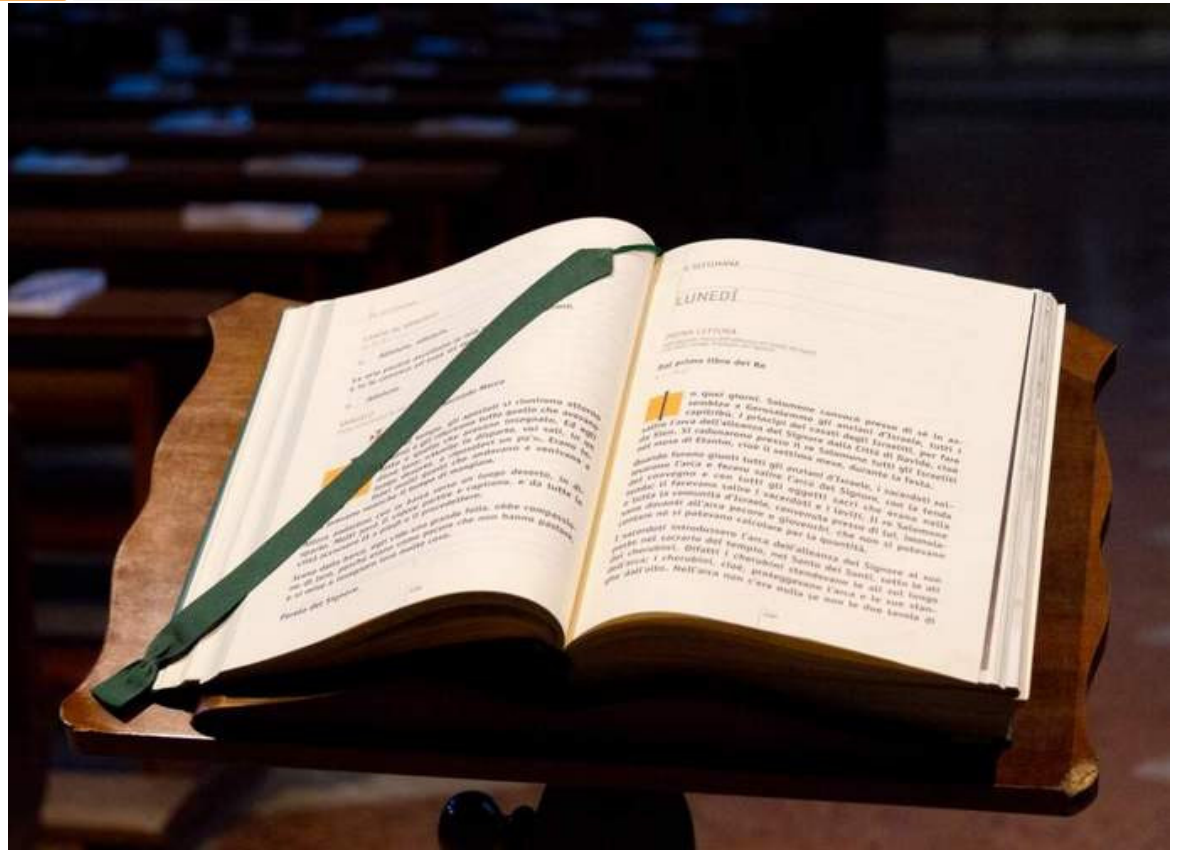


GOSPEL PEARLS

God will be the judge

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After this the Lord appointed seventy-two others and sent them two by two ahead of him to every town and place where he was about to go. He told them, "The harvest is plentiful, but the workers are few. Ask the Lord of the harvest, therefore, to send out workers into his harvest field. Go! I am sending you out like lambs among wolves. Do not take a purse or bag or sandals; and do not greet anyone on the road. "When you enter a house, first say, 'Peace to this house.' If someone who promotes peace is there, your peace will rest on them; if not, it will return to you. Stay there, eating and drinking whatever they give you, for the worker

deserves his wages. Do not move around from house to house. "When you enter a town and are welcomed, eat what is offered to you. Heal the sick who are there and tell them, 'The kingdom of God has come near to you.' But when you enter a town and are not welcomed, go into its streets and say, 'Even the dust of your town we wipe from our feet as a warning to you. Yet be sure of this: The kingdom of God has come near.' I tell you, it will be more bearable on that day for Sodom than for that town. (Luke 10:1-12)

Jesus loves and trusts His disciples so much that He sends them among other men to announce God's Kingdom and spread the message of salvation. As God's envoys they must not rely on human security but on divine help. Moreover, they must not judge those who reject them because, in reality, their sinful behavior will be condemned should they not convert in the end. Therefore, when we too are called to bear witness to our faith in Jesus, let us try and do so faithfully, not worrying about the success of our testimony. God will be the judge of this.