

Heaven is Our Goal

Phillipians 3:7-14

New
Testament
Reading

"I continue my pursuit toward the goal, the prize of God's upward calling, in Christ Jesus." Phillipians 3:14

Do you have goals that you would like to accomplish or competitions that you hope to win? Do you play a sport and have your eye on the championship trophy? Or play an instrument and hope to score high on your next judged event? Maybe you're hoping to become class president, write a book, travel to the moon. These are all great things! It is good to have dreams and goals. God has put these gifts and hopes inside of you and has a purpose for you.



However, even more important than the next spelling bee or track meet, is the other *eternal* goal that we should also be focused on.

Our time on earth is not forever, so it is important to be mindful of this fact and to consider what comes next.

The Lord has made us to love Him and to use our time here to prepare for Heaven. We can do this by partaking in the Mysteries (Sacraments) as often as possible and by trying to cultivate a life of heroic virtue - like all of the saints who have lived before us.



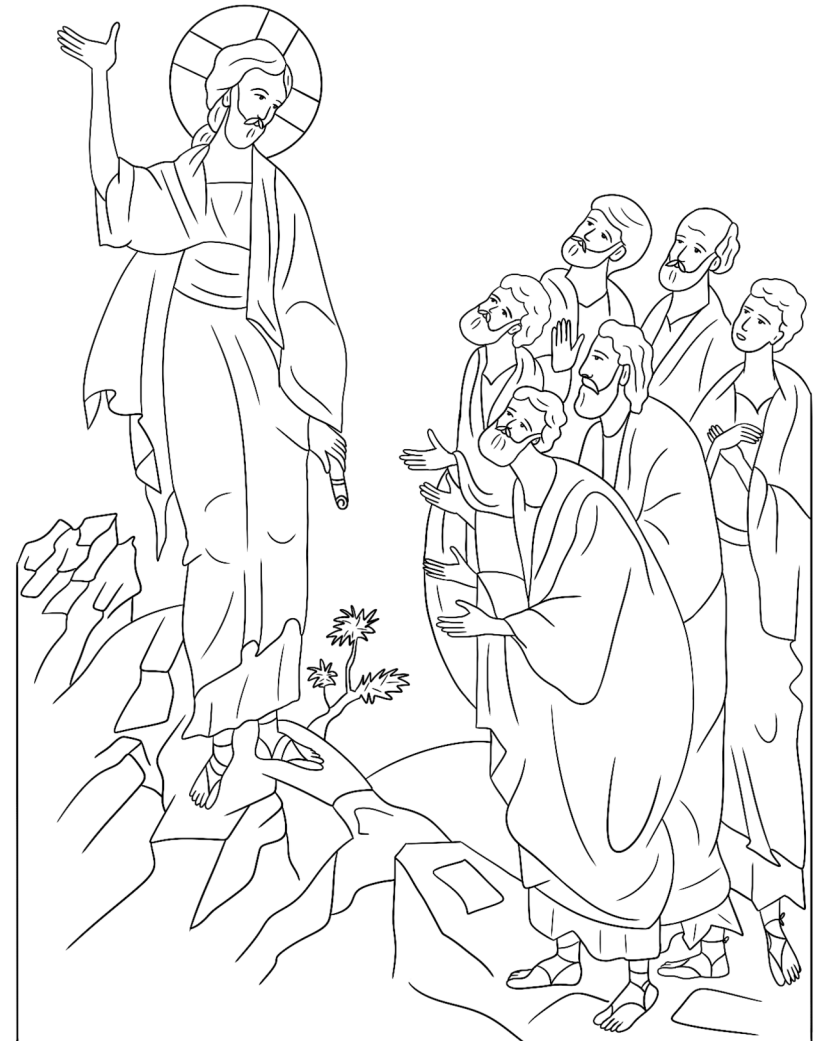
It is good to have fun goals and accomplishments to work toward while we are on this earth, but while doing that we should never lose sight of the fact that Heaven is our ultimate goal.

Cedar
Kids

The Way of Blessed Estephan Douaihy



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**"As you go, make this proclamation:
'The kingdom of heaven is at hand.'"**





Gospel Corner

Matthew
10:1-7

After Jesus established his Twelve Apostles, the twelve men who would help spread his message and lead his people, he sent them out on mission. Jesus instructed the twelve to go out and preach first to the lost people of the house of Israel.

Who exactly was the house of Israel? About two thousand years before Jesus came in the flesh there was a man named Jacob. He was the son of Isaac and the grandson of Abraham. After Jacob wrestled with an angel, the Lord God changed his name to Israel. Jacob, now called Israel, also had twelve sons. The Lord established these twelve sons as the Twelve Tribes of Israel. All of God's people in the Old Testament were people from these Twelve Tribes.



Now, Jesus was walking on the earth, and he came to fulfill all the prophecies of the Old Testament - all the promises God made to the people of Israel. Jesus told his Twelve Apostles to go out and proclaim: "The Kingdom of Heaven is at hand." For the people of Israel, they would understand that this meant that God's long-awaited promises to come and save them were finally being fulfilled.



But what did Jesus mean when he said "the Kingdom of Heaven is at hand"? He wanted the people to know that God's reign and saving power had arrived on earth, and it was there in him - the Person of Jesus Christ. Jesus was the long-awaited King. Heaven is found through the Person of Jesus Christ, and his grace is available to each of us right now. The Kingdom of Heaven is no longer something in the distant future, but an active reality because Jesus himself is King.

Did you know?

MYSTICAL BODY of CHRIST

The Mystical Body of Christ is a theological name for the Church. The Church is not simply a human organization, but a living, spiritual union where Jesus Christ is the "Head" and all the baptized believers are the interdependent "members."

What you can do



Pray for your bishop and all men who are discerning ordination.

Pray for all missionaries.

Read about different lay and religious groups of Catholics who are serving and sharing the Gospel all over the world.



Spot the Differences



Find the 6 differences between the two pictures of Jesus commissioning His disciples.

