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19 Friday

FRIDAY 24th WEEK of YEAR

1 Tim 6:2-12  
Ps 48: 6-10, 17-20  
Luke 8: 1-3

The gospels tell about “the Twelve” apostles that Jesus chose and who went with Him as He preached the Good News, healed people, and revealed God’s power and presence. We know all their names. It’s only St Luke’s gospel that says there were also “several” women who were part of the small crowd that went with Jesus through the towns and villages of the Holy Land. They were all women who in some way were indebted to Jesus because He’d healed them. And Luke gives us three of their names. Their gratitude to Jesus expressed itself in a practical show of love and unselfish service, “out of their own pockets” (as we might say these days). These grateful women “provided for” Jesus and His twelve. What might this ‘providing’ include? It must have been quite a task and an important one, for it was altogether a rather large group of people who traveled around with Jesus. Just imagine the impression this small crowd must have made as they came into a village or even a larger town together, how people might even have been a bit frightened or intimidated by such a traveling “gang”. The women perhaps helped to organise listeners, or got meals ready and found places for the group to rest or stay, or maybe also looked after the children who may have crowded around in curiosity? It was in any case a “labour of love”, serving other people. May all of us who recognise our indebtedness to Jesus’ mercy and love for us, and who call ourselves His followers, likewise provide for Him and His present-day disciples by giving an unselfish service of love and labour to other people in whatever ways we can.

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