**Amos 7:12-15**

Amaziah, priest of Bethel, said to Amos,  
"Off with you, visionary, flee to the land of Judah!  
There earn your bread by prophesying,  
but never again prophesy in Bethel;  
for it is the king's sanctuary and a royal temple."  
Amos answered Amaziah, "I was no prophet,  
nor have I belonged to a company of prophets;  
I was a shepherd and a dresser of sycamores.  
The LORD took me from following the flock, and said to me,  
Go, prophesy to my people Israel."

**Psalm 85:9-14**

I will hear what God proclaims;  
the LORD --for he proclaims peace.  
Near indeed is his salvation to those who fear him, glory dwelling in our land.

Kindness and truth shall meet;  
justice and peace shall kiss.  
Truth shall spring out of the earth,  
and justice shall look down from heaven.

**Ephesians 1:3-10** (The Message)

How blessed is God! And what a blessing he is! He's the Father of our Master, Jesus Christ, and takes us to the high places of blessing in him. Long before he laid down earth's foundations, he had us in mind, had settled on us as the focus of his love, to be made whole and holy by his love. Long, long ago he decided to adopt us into his family through Jesus Christ. (What pleasure he took in planning this!) He wanted us to enter into the celebration of his lavish

gift-giving by the hand of his beloved Son.

 Because of the sacrifice of the Messiah, his blood poured out on the altar of the Cross, we're a free people—free of penalties and punishments chalked up by all our misdeeds. And not just barely free, either. Abundantly free! He thought of everything, provided for everything we could possibly need, letting us in on the plans he took such delight in making. He set it all out before us in Christ, a long-range plan in which everything would be brought together and summed up in him, everything in deepest heaven, everything on planet earth.

Justice shall walk before him,

And prepare the way of his steps.

The LORD himself will give his benefits;

our land shall yield its increase.

**Mark 6:7-13**

Jesus summoned the Twelve and began to send them out two by two  
and gave them authority over unclean spirits.  
He instructed them to take nothing for the journey  
but a walking stick--  
no food, no sack, no money in their belts.  
They were, however, to wear sandals  
but not a second tunic.

He said to them,  
"Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the town.  
Whatever place does not welcome you or listen to you,  
leave there and shake the dust off your feet  
in testimony against them."

So they went off and preached repentance.  
The Twelve drove out many demons,  
and they anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Jesus did not simply dip into our existence, wave the magic wand of divine life over us, and then hurriedly retreat to his eternal home. He did not leave us with a tattered dream, letting us brood over the mystery of our existence. Instead, Jesus subjected himself to our plight.... Jesus came to us where we really are--with all our broken dreams and lost hopes.... Christ showed us how to really become human beings. In him we see the unimagined heights and depths of our human lot.

Source: *Poverty of Spirit,* Johannes B. Metz