



Gospel Mk 6:1-6

A prophet is despised only in his own country.

Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Reflection by Greg Sunter

This week's gospel sees Jesus returning to his home town of Nazareth. He is well and truly into his public ministry at this point in the gospel and his reputation is obviously growing as a healer and teacher. When he goes to Nazareth the locals are quick to 'put him in his place'. They remember the boy, the teenager, the young man apprenticed to his father's craft. He's a nobody as far as they are concerned; just young Yeshua (Jesus) who grew up here. It is much the same within families and local communities today. No matter how successful and authoritative a young woman or man may have become, a trip home will quickly remind them that in the eyes of those they grew up with nothing has changed. In the gospel passage they even say, that's Jesus – he's just James' brother; no one special! Why would they think they had anything to learn from a brat who grew up in their own town? What could he possibly tell them? They try to force Jesus back into the mould of the person with whom they were previously familiar and comfortable.

We do this to one another all the time. We have certain expectations about the way a friend normally acts or thinks and when they behave differently we react in a way that lets them know that they are not 'being themselves'. In doing this, we are looking to maintain our own comfort zone. We take away the freedom of the other person to grow and change. Many people seem to enter into relationships thinking that neither of them will ever change. This, of course, is an unsustainable assumption. Surely, if we want the best for those we love and care for, we want them to be constantly growing and becoming all that they can be?

The Living Word

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Year B

4 July 2021

First Reading Ez 2:2-5

The people are rebellious; they shall know there will be a prophet in their midst.

The spirit came into me and made me stand up, and I heard the Lord speaking to me. He said, 'Son of man, I am sending you up to the Israelites, to the rebels who have turned against me. Till now they and their ancestors have been in revolt against me. The sons are defiant and obstinate; I am sending you to them, to say, "The Lord says this." Whether they listen or not, this set of rebels shall know there is a prophet among them.'

Responsorial Psalm

Ps 122. R. v.2

(R.) Our eyes are fixed on the Lord, pleading for his mercy.

1. To you have I lifted up my eyes, you who dwell in the heavens: my eyes, like the eyes of slaves on the hand of their lords. (R.)
2. Like the eyes of a servant on the hand of his mistress, so our eyes are on the Lord our God till he shows us his mercy. (R.)
3. Have mercy on us, Lord, have mercy. We are filled with contempt. Indeed all too full is our soul with the scorn of the rich, with the proud man's disdain. (R.)

Second Reading 2 Cor 12:7-10

I will glory in my infirmities so that the power of Christ may dwell in me.

In view of the extraordinary nature of these revelations, to stop me from getting too proud I was given a thorn in the flesh, an angel of Satan to beat me and stop me from getting too proud! About this thing, I have pleaded with the Lord three times for it to leave me, but he has said, 'My grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast so that the power of Christ may stay over me, and that is why I am quite content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

Gospel Acclamation See Lk 4:18

Alleluia, alleluia!

The Spirit of the Lord is upon me; he sent me to bring Good News to the poor.

Alleluia!

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