

2021 July 04

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Reading:

First: Ezekiel 2.3-5, "Son of man, I am sending you to the children of Israel." (3a)

The Psalm: 123, "Our eyes look to the Lord, our God, until he had mercy upon us." (2b)

Second: 2 Corinthians 12.7-10, "My grace is sufficient for you, for power is made perfect in weakness." (9a)

The Gospel: Mark 6.1-6, "They said, 'What deeds of power are being done by his hands?'" (2c)

Can God be frustrated?

Jesus might have been the most frustrated human being lived on earth. We are not sure if we can say so about him. It is our human way of looking at things and happenings. Even at the time of his human existence people did not want Jesus, they only wanted his works, works of healing, miracles and even his amazing words. Some people thronged into the gatherings where Jesus was present as if they were going to watch a fire work or a movie! Some went to him maybe, for a miraculous healing not being sure what kind of healing they look for.

Most people remained blind to Jesus, not recognizing the source of power that was in him. Many did not get the meaning of what he said. Whatever Jesus said had deeper meanings, which even his disciples could not grasp. They did not grasp because they rarely reflected or meditated on them. No one at that time realized its meaning or depth when Jesus said, 'My Father and I are One, I do the work my Father has given me.' (cfr. John 5.19ff) In today's gospel they question the very family of Jesus; his was a carpenter's family. For them nothing great could come from the son of a carpenter. From time immemorial prejudice never had a reason. It is a mindset. We recognize their appearance in others and are the least aware of them in us. Again, that is part of the mindset.

Pride and prejudice take center stage in our lives. Jesus could not do much for those people with such attitude. This is also the reality in our times and lives. We have our own notions and prejudices on race, ethnicity, nationality, creed, gender and color. Unless we accept a person as one is, and open our minds to that one, we are not likely to gain any things even from the most accomplished person. Very often God is sending his prophets to us just as he did with Ezekiel. God knew that they were a rebellious people and would not listen. In spite of that he charged the prophet to speak his word to them. Thus, God does not fail us, but makes sure that through the Prophets he made his presence real and tangible to the people. He continues to do the same even now. We too have God's unknown prophets among us. Maybe, you and I are one such! God's words happen to be advance judgments on the people, giving them an opportunity to repent and turn to him. If they fail, they are the greater losers.

Of course, God does express frustration in his attempt to save his dear children in that they fail to enjoy the good things he had kept for them by refusing to walk in his ways. God's care does not mean that everything happens in our life as we desire and plan. God gives only what we need and what is conducive to live our lives according to his plan. He does not take away our daily trials and tribulations. Today we hear St. Paul praying to take away a temptation from his life. God did not grant that prayer but gave him the grace to overcome. Thus, at the end of the day God wants us to be a winner with the assistance of his grace.

