

Homily
February 6, 2002
Paul Miki and companions
2 Samuel 24: 2, 9-17/ Mark 6: 1-6

Today we remember the mission and martyrdom of 26 witnesses to Christ in Japan in 1597. I have printed their story for you.

The first reading shows David ordering a census of his realm. The census was to be done in preparation for war...how many warriors could be put into the field. This was done against the advice of his subordinate, Joab. Joab knew that it was God who commanded the armies of Israel, that David was only an instrument. David presumed too much on God's authority and got himself into trouble. Through the court prophet, Gad, God allowed David to choose his punishment. David chose the 3-day pestilence and his people suffered for it.

Samuel answers the questions: who's in charge and who suffers when we do it our own way.

The Gospel has Jesus coming back to his home. Now Jesus had been doing some healing and preaching already. Jesus refers to himself as a prophet here.

One would think this would be a celebration for the home-town boy made good. Jesus got another reaction. He was received with suspicion from those who knew him best. There were no open hearts, no faith, no hearing.

It says Jesus was not able to perform any mighty deed. Jesus, who is God is not incapable of anything. It is clear, though, that he allows us to reject Him, to reject a relationship with Him with the consequence of ...

I reject Christ in the same way when I am resentful of those close to me who *achieve* and *are* and *have*. That petty jealousy, ego ...Christ allows me to choose them. If that is my choice, can I expect any mighty deed of Christ's on my behalf?

David chose his own way... what if I choose my own way...what way do you choose?