

MARK 6:1-6

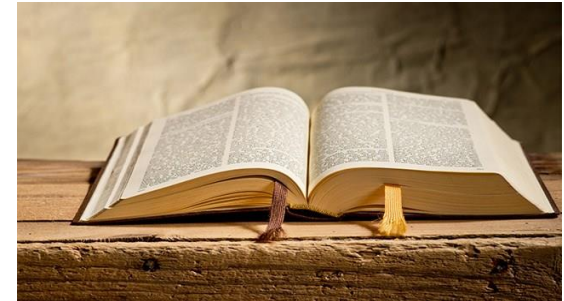
Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the Sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are 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.

COMMENTARY: This is a great story to help us understand the humanity of Jesus. Even today, people want to divinise the earthly Jesus, ignoring the fact that he was like us in all things but sin. In the text above we see humanity at its best: his relatives didn't see much in him. The kind of faith Jesus was looking for among people wasn't there in his own family!

Liturgy of The Word

7.7.24

14th SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**Our eyes are fixed on the Lord,
pleading for his mercy.**

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.

Like the eyes of a servant
on the hand of her mistress,
so our eyes are on the Lord our God
till he show us his mercy.

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.

EZEKIEL 2:2-5

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 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.'

COMMENTARY: Ezekiel lived around 500 years before Christ. His ministry was in part to the Israelites who had been exiled down to Babylon. His message was mostly about inner conversion and so a new heart and a new spirit is called for. He is known as the father of Judaism because of the depth of his spiritual insights.

In the text above Ezekiel reveals that he is called and sent. He also realises that the word of God has to be welcomed, but people may not listen.

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

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.

COMMENTARY: Paul reveals in this text his humanity. It is easy for us to think of the great leaders as going through life without any doubts or worries because of their faith. They, however, were just ordinary mortals like ourselves. What we see in this text is the depth of Paul's faith: when I am weak, then I am strong.