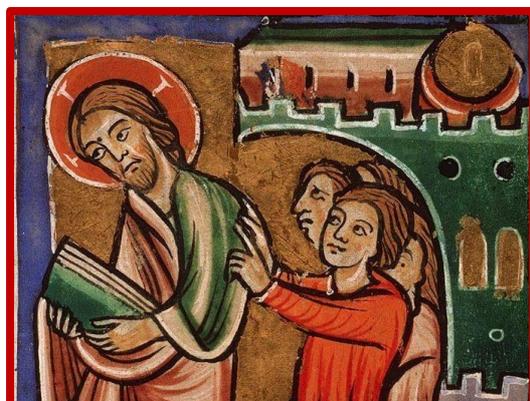


Reflections for Sunday 4 July 2021



Gospel – Mark 6:1-6

Gospel Reading: Mark 6:1-6

vs.1 Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him.

vs.2 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?”

vs.3 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.

vs.4 And Jesus said to them,

“A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house,”

vs.5 and he could work no miracles there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them.

vs.6 He was amazed at their lack of faith.

It may be that the Gospel reading this week is a warning against the tendency that we have to judge people on the basis of appearance or background. It may also perhaps warn us against jealousy (thinking that person is successful, why am i not successful). It asks a lot of deep questions about faith and makes us reflect on why we believe certain things.

We also thought that the people in Nazareth couldn't recognise who Jesus was because he was familiar to them. We need God's grace and faith to recognise God and Jesus in the familiar. He is to be found in the glory of nature, in the Word and in the Eucharist but He is also to be found in the day to day, the ordinary and the mundane if we have the grace to see Him.

In many ways the Gospel reading seems to me to be a classic case of “familiarity breeds contempt” because Jesus was in his “native place” the people who knew him best failed to see him as the Saviour instead asking “is He not the carpenter, the son of Mary and Joseph? How often do we judge our friends and neighbours and people we meet in the same way? More importantly, do we take Jesus for granted in our lives because he is familiar? Do we need to work and pray harder to keep Him twith us and to recognise His importance in our lives.

Even with all His strength Christ, could not get through to the people where He grew up. We should learn to listen to everyone and judge them by what they say and do not by who we believe they are.