

## 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time

Today's readings bring us a message of trust in God.

### **Ezekiel 2:2-5**

Ezekiel tells the rebellious people that whether they respond or resist, they will know that a prophet has been in their midst.

### **2 Corinthians 12:7-10**

Paul boasts of his weaknesses: he proclaims that when we are weak, we can be strong in the Lord.

### **Mark 6:1-6**

On his return to Nazareth, Jesus finds that a prophet is not welcome among his own; and so he cannot work many miracles there.



**"A prophet is not without honour  
except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house".**

When Jesus returned to his hometown of Nazareth, his neighbours were astonished by his teachings. They wondered where he acquired his wisdom and amazing power. They asked a lot of questions:

Who did Jesus think he was?

Wasn't he a mere carpenter? (Greek, *tekton*, a "craftsman")

Didn't his mother and family live among them?

Jesus was distressed that his neighbours were offended by him. Moses had promised the people that there would be a great prophet who would arise among their own kinsmen, and that they would listen to him. But Jesus declared, "Prophets are not without honour, except in their own hometown, and among their own people, and in their own house". Like the prophets of old, Jesus was not accepted by the very people to whom he was sent. Because they lacked faith, Jesus was able to perform only a few miracles among his own people. Jesus went on to teach in other villages, but there were few "mighty deeds" done in his hometown.



**"A prophet is only despised in his own country."**

A prophet's job is to open people's eyes to the reality of their situation - pointing out to them the things they would rather forget or ignore. A prophet is a sort of

“national conscience”, always awake to situations of injustice and always speaking out about them. A prophet is commissioned to do this by God, who sends the prophet on his mission



Jesus is just such a prophet - teaching and preaching about the Kingdom of God and the best way to live. Despite the welcome his message has received elsewhere, when he comes to his hometown he is faced with rejection – so much so that “he was amazed at their lack of faith.” What’s curious is that they seem to accept his wisdom, and his miracles, but, because he grew up among them they cannot accept him as a teacher from God. We should remember that it is often hardest to stand up for the truth among people who know us well.

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