

Readings Ezekiel 2: 2-5; 2 Corinthians 12: 7-10; Mark 6:1-6



Fr Michael says:

Rejecting the Messenger

Today's Gospel is an important one, as it serves to reveal something of Who Jesus is and how he expressed His human nature in His Feelings and need for comfort! We enter with Him into His sense of loneliness and isolation. Ezekiel is one of the Prophets, called to speak God's word, which can be quite harsh at times and so can be rejected - but is in the setting of compassionate love and affection for a wayward people. Just as Paul feels the power of God's grace in weakness, so does Jesus through reaching out to His Father, but He is still effective in what He can do! Jesus draws strength from words, which are shared with Paul: "My grace is sufficient for you!"

Jesus had left His home town and during that time becomes known as a preacher and healer – he needed to leave to begin His Mission! So when He returns, they still see Him as who He was before He went away and so are not ready to be open to Him. Closed minds and hearts, stuck in life's routines, they feel the need to cut Him down to size, especially when on His return He started preaching in the synagogue, they recognized and were delighted to see a new wisdom – but they are soon suspicious about where it all came from! "Where does He get this from?" is a question we can ask of our own families and children: we start to see something of the mystery of education and formation, beyond the home or local setting, but who are we to impose limits on what can be achieved and acquired?

This is what happened to Jesus, people would not see how He had matured, they could not take Him seriously – we can be guilty of the same attitude so easily. It is so easy to put people down; we cannot accept their gifts and talents. How hurtful that is! Jesus is not angry because of this – only saddened at what has happened to them through their lack of acceptance as to who He is. We easily turn to anger when this happens to us, Jesus simply accepts reality, comes to terms with what is happening (particularly clear in Matthew's Gospel) and then went to take His light and gifts elsewhere.

"Disturb us, O Lord, when we are too well pleased with ourselves; when our dreams have come true because we dreamed too little; when we have arrived safely, because we sailed too close to the shore. Stir us, O Lord, to dare more boldly; to venture more seas, where storms shall show your mastery; where losing sight of land we shall find the stars. In the name of Him who pushed back the horizons of our hopes and invited the brave to follow Him. Amen!" (Prayer by an unknown Author)