

READINGS AND REFLECTION FOR THE 14TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME.

A READING FROM THE BOOK OF EZEKIEL 2:2-5

The sons are defiant, and they shall know there is a prophet among them.'

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.'



The Word of the Lord.

RESPONSORIAL PSALM Ps 122

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.

Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.

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

Our eyes are on the Lord 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.

Our eyes are on the Lord till he show us his mercy.

A READING FROM St Paul's Second Letter to the Corinthians 12:7- 10

*So I shall be very happy to make my weaknesses my special boast
so that the power of Christ may stay over me.*



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

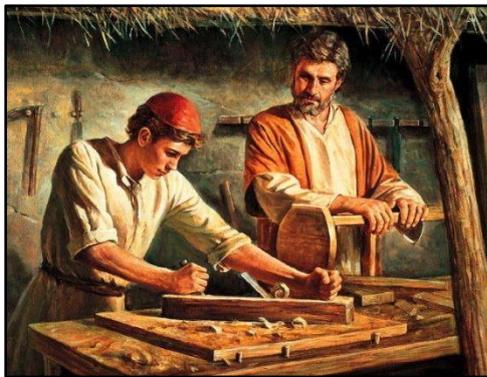
content with my weaknesses, and with insults, hardships, persecutions, and the agonies I go through for Christ's sake. For it is when I am weak that I am strong.

The Word of the Lord

John 12: 12,14: *The Word was made flesh and lived among us; to all who did accept him he gave power to become children of God.*

A READING FROM THE HOLY GOSPEL ACCORDING TO MARK 6:1-6

A prophet is only despised- in his own country.



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.

The Gospel of the Lord.

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REFLECTION

Like the people of Nazareth, we too can be bedazzled unduly by 'wonder workers' – people or things and their promises. It takes more on our part to perceive with respect anyone or anything that appears 'ordinary'. Jesus lived out, sometimes with dramatic impact, God's unconditional invitation to the poor, the sick and to all including us today. However, God's unconditional invitation is not necessarily received unconditionally. Jesus was 'too ordinary' for the people of Nazareth in Galilee. Jesus revealed God 'in the human', not in God's transcendence. We too may be truly moved by the wonders Jesus worked for many. However, it can only be with faith in who Jesus is that we will see and can respond to the Father, Son and Spirit of God whom He reveals.

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