

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time, Cycle B.

Mark 6:1-6

HOMILY

Up to now Jesus had a great impact in many villages and towns of Galilee far from home. Returning to where he was familiar to everyone in that small village must have been something he very much looked forward to. That's why he came to the village with the whole team of his chosen ones. But to his great surprise, he received a very frosty, if not hostile, reception. The gospel reading says that *Jesus 'was amazed at their lack of faith'* in him. The people of Nazareth could not accept that one of their own possessed healing powers they didn't have, neither that one of their own would speak with a wisdom they didn't possess. That's why they asked, *'What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him?'* In fact they were asking the right questions, but they were not open to hearing the true answer. Regretfully, Jesus had to conclude that a *'prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations, and in his own house'*. The gospel reading says that *'Jesus could work no miracles there'*.

What do we learn from this?

- ❖ Even someone as full of the Spirit as Jesus can be disempowered by a lack of openness to him.
- ❖ A critical, dismissive, attitude on our part towards others can inhibit the work of the Holy Spirit in their lives.

On our part, today's Gospel is inviting us to have an openness to the untapped abilities of others and to be aware that God can be working through the person who is closest to us, who is well-known to us.