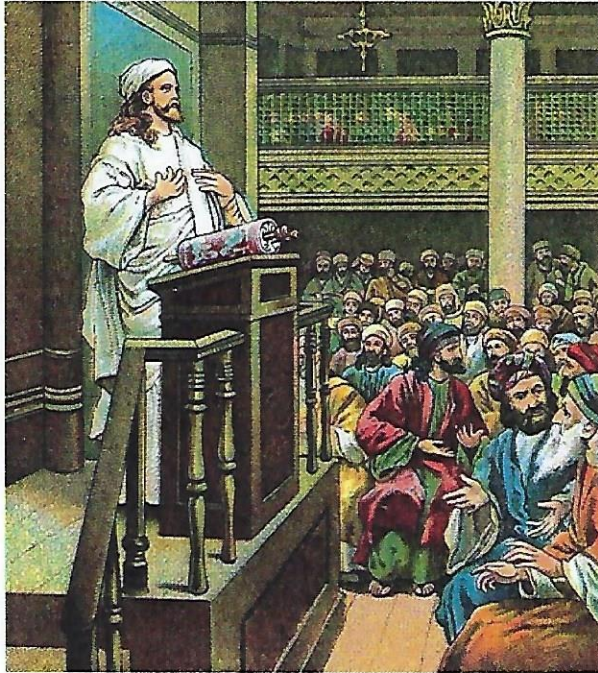


February 3, 2019

Fourth Week in Ordinary Time



Readings for the week of February 3, 2019

Sunday: Jer 1:4-5, 17-19/Ps 71:1-2, 3-4, 5-6, 15-17 [cf. 15ab]/1 Cor 12:31—13:13 or 13:4-13/Lk 4:21-30

Monday: Heb 11:32-40/Ps 31:20, 21, 23, 24 [25]/Mk 5:1-20

Tuesday: Heb 12:1-4/Ps 22:26b-27, 28 and 30, 31-32 [cf. 27b]/Mk 5:21-43

Wednesday: Heb 12:4-7, 11-15/Ps 103:1-2, 13-14, 17-18a [cf. 17]/Mk 6:1-6

Thursday: Heb 12:18-19, 21-24/Ps 48:2-3ab, 3cd-4, 9, 10-11 [cf. 10]/Mk 6:7-13

Friday: Heb 13:1-8/Ps 27:1, 3, 5, 8b-9abc [1a]/Mk 6:14-29

Saturday: Heb 13:15-17, 20-21/Ps 23:1-3a, 3b-4, 5, 6 [1]/Mk 6:30-34

Next Sunday: Is 6:1-2a, 3-8/Ps 138:1-2, 2-3, 4-5, 7-8 [1c]/1 Cor 15:1-11 or 15:3-8, 11/Lk 5:1-11

“Amen, I say to you, no prophet is accepted in his own native place.”

Rejecting Jesus

Luke 4:21-30

Those of us who proclaim a faith and a belief in Jesus Christ might think that rejecting Jesus is unthinkable. Or is it? This week the story of Jesus in the synagogue continues. Those who, at first, were impressed and excited about Jesus' proclamation, turn against him with thoughts of his destruction. Why?

Rejecting Jesus is really about how difficult the gospel is to accept, even for those of us who claim a faith and belief in Jesus. It is not easy to hear that we must change, aligning our will toward the will of God.


The rejection for Jesus in today's gospel is a response, by the people, to the fact that Jesus is proclaiming that he is the promised Messiah. He is God. He is the one to bring right order back to the world. At the same time, he claims that those listening to him are like those who rejected earlier prophets and their message. This incites the people in the synagogue to rise up to destroy him.

How about us? Do we ever rise up to reject Jesus? Yes, we do. Every time we sin we reject the very will of God, of Jesus. Do we ever find ourselves angry about a Church teaching? Hmmm....probably. Do we succumb to habitual (sinful) practices that are in conflict with the Commandments? Of course we do... We all do. It is not easy to align ourselves with the gospel and accept everything that Jesus asks of us. We are human and our free-will sometimes operates outside the will of the Divine.

St. Paul encourages the Corinthians (and us) to "strive eagerly for the greatest spiritual gifts." He also suggests, "a still more excellent way." We must first put on love.

If we do not adopt a love of the other, we run the risk of rejecting Jesus. We are called to love those we don't agree with, those we don't like and those who are the marginalized of society. We are called to work toward challenging ourselves to grow toward our acceptance and practice of the gospel every day. The only way to accomplish this is through prayer, penance and a commitment to following the gospel.

Blessings!


Sue Schettler