

## Fourteenth Sunday of Ordinary Time

**Ez. 2. 2-5, 2 Cor. 12.7-10, Mark 6.1-6**

Over the past two weeks St. Mark has revealed to us several miracles performed by Jesus. Recall last week Jesus performed two miracles; He healed the woman who was hemorrhaging and Jairus' daughter who had died. Both miracles had to do with faith. The healings/miracles occur because of the divinity of Jesus. The 12<sup>th</sup> week of ordinary time Jesus calms the storm; again, who can calm the seas and the winds, only the creator. Recall how Jesus asks the Apostles "Do you not yet have faith?" or "perhaps Jesus is asking do you not trust me?"

St. Mark moves from revealing Jesus' miracles to His teachings. In today's gospel St. Mark tries to answer the question Who is Jesus? St. Thomas Aquinas calls this transition one of wonderment and scandal. The people wondered who is this person that can do miracles and has so much knowledge. The people knew Jesus' humanity and as we heard in today's Gospel that Jesus the human is a carpenter, the son of Mary. Often people judge based on limited knowledge. Yes, it must have been overwhelming and perhaps even confusing to witness a miracle, to listen to Jesus speak with such knowledge and authority.

During this time a son was expected to follow in the footsteps of his father but not go beyond them. If a boy's father was a carpenter, then the son was to be a carpenter as well-but nothing more. When people heard Jesus teach in the synagogue, they were on the verge of applauding him, but they didn't because they saw him as just a carpenter. What they failed to see was that Jesus was following in His Father's footsteps-His heavenly Father's. The bottom line is that the people in the synagogue lacked faith. They were quick to judge which leads to scandal. St. Mark points this out in the three questions which are asked, "Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands?" What they fail to see is that God is His teacher and the source of His power. They doubt, they question. Because they/we are human, we all are sinners and fall. What do we do about our doubt? Do we understand what faith is? How do we judge one another?

The fact is this God has created us in His image and likeness. The scriptures tell us that God is Love (1 Jn. 4.8). The scriptures also tell us what faith is in Hebrews 11.1,3 "Faith is the realization of what is hoped for and evidence of things not seen. By faith we understand that the universe was ordered by the word

of God, so that what is visible came into being through the invisible.”

The CCC defines faith as both a gift of God and a human act by which the believer gives personal adherence to God who invites his response, and freely assents to the whole truth that God has revealed. It is this revelation of God which the Church proposes for our belief, and which we profess in the Creed, celebrate in the sacraments, live by right conduct that fulfills the two-fold commandment of charity, and responds to in our prayer of faith. Faith is both a theological virtue given by God as grace, and an obligation which flows from the first commandment of God.” But we as humans have free will, we can accept these virtues of grace from God or reject them. We can increase our faith in God or not.

Again, the Gospel says, “He was amazed at their lack of faith.” We are called to trust in God. But, in today’s world we are challenged and often encouraged to not worry about God, not to trust in God. We live in a world where we are encouraged to take the easy road, to leave God behind. My friends we need to trust in God. Think of the words of the OUR FATHER ‘Thy will be done.’ If we truly trust in God we must also trust in HIS PLAN.

As we recite the Creed think of the words, the elements of our faith which we believe and profess. Also, as we prepare for the Liturgy of the Eucharist, let us trust in God, let us open our hearts, our souls as we witness the miracle of the bread and the wine. As we receive the body, blood soul and divinity of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ let us allow ourselves to be fed by Jesus Christ allow ourselves to grow in Faith, in trust which we can demonstrate through our works. Let us not be afraid to seek our Lord and God through the Sacred Scriptures- the Bible.

We need to focus on our relationship with God, our journey with God. We need to allow our faith to grow, remember prayer is the key but FAITH unlocks the door. My friends in Christ, today let us seek and acknowledge Jesus Christ in everyone we meet. Let us demonstrate our faith by our actions. Let us not judge but rather let us rejoice in one another. May Jesus be amazed by our FAITH!