

Service for Week 1st- 7th July 2024 by
Chaplain Andy

Our Opening Prayer.

Lord Jesus Christ, you summed up the law in one simple word: 'love'.
Forgive us that although we often talk about love we rarely show it in practice.

Teach us to forgive as you have forgiven us,
To care as you care for us,
And to love as you love all.

Amen

The Lord's Prayer

Our Father who art in heaven,

.....

For ever and ever.

Amen

Bible Reading Mark 6:1-6

Jesus left there and went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. Where did this man get these things?" they asked. "What's this wisdom that has been given him, that he even does miracles! Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?" And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, "Only in his hometown, among his relatives and in his own house is a prophet without honour." He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few

sick people and heal them. And he was amazed at their lack of faith.

2nd Reading Mark 6: 7- 13

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. Calling the Twelve to him, he sent them out two by two and gave them authority over evil spirits. These were his instructions: "Take nothing for the journey except a staff—no bread, no bag, no money in your belts. Wear sandals but not an extra tunic. Whenever you enter a house, stay there until you leave that town.

And if any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave, as a testimony against them." They went out and preached that people should repent. They drove out many demons and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.

Holy words, Holy wisdom,

Thanks be to God

Reflection.

We don't learn very much in the New Testament about Jesus' early life. From when 40 days after being born he was presented in the Temple, and later at the age of 12, when his parents found him talking with the teachers at the Temple in Jerusalem right up until the time he started his ministry.

It was then, when he was about 30 years old (Luke 3:23) when he started to travel around preaching and teaching and bringing together the



men who were to become his disciples. Growing up, Jesus would have been expected to learn from the Torah - the first five books in the Old Testament. His education, the same as any other Jewish male of his time was most likely studying with a teacher of the Law in the synagogue of Nazareth while also learning his father's occupation as a carpenter. But it is thought that his father Joseph died when Jesus was an adolescent, as Joseph was much older than Mary.

It was when Jesus went back to his hometown Nazareth to start to preach that the people there said 'Isn't this the carpenter? Isn't this Mary's son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren't his sisters here with us?' They could not understand where Jesus he had received all his wise teachings and especially how he was able to perform miracles.

They remembered Jesus as a boy and adolescent, also as being very much one of them, from a small village in Galilee, north of Judea. Certainly not as someone special and having powers that only God could have, and they became cross and took offence at Jesus.

Jesus' answer was to tell them that only in his hometown a prophet is not listened to and is without honour. We then read how Jesus calls the twelve disciples together to start going out to

meet the people in other villages, towns and cities.

This account from Mark's gospel reminds us how easy it is to disregard people we live among and are familiar with. It is easy to think -well they are like everyone else living around here they are not special, better or really any different from us. But each person is unique, everyone has special attributes which they could bring to enhance the lives of those around them. From others that may just be their interest in us or their interest in an aspect of the world that we haven't appreciated before.

Yes, we may be part of a community in one place but each of us are unique individuals. Jesus asks us to appreciate each other and to share God's love, as he asked the disciples. If in doing this we are ignored or rejected remember what Jesus told his disciples "If any place will not welcome you or listen to you, shake the dust off your feet when you leave. In other words, don't worry if people don't wish to be friends, there are many more that would welcome it.

Amen

Closing prayer

Teach me Lord Jesus to belong not just to the community but also, to the family of humankind, and in serving them may I equally serve you to the glory of your name.

Amen

Prayer inspired by Prayerfully Yours by Nick Fawcett