

JULY 8, 2018



FOURTEENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



EZEKIEL 2:2-5

PSALM 123:1-2, 2, 3-4

2 CORINTHIANS 12:7-10

MARK 6:1-6

REFLECTION

Have you ever been referred to as so-and-so's daughter or son, brother or sister? I experience this every time that I meet one of my parents' friends, even as an independent adult. In school, teachers would be either delighted or terrified to have me in their class, depending on which of my two older brothers they had taught. In Mark's account of the Gospel, Jesus experiences this, too—people from his hometown of Nazareth referred to him as "the son of Mary," questioning "Is he not the carpenter?" (v. 3) when he preached to them. Because they knew his roots, his simple family, people seemed to doubt him. They couldn't see Jesus independent from his parents, and they lacked faith in him as a prophet and the son of God. In his hometown, Jesus was a prophet "without honor." It can be difficult for others to see us for who we really are. Like the Nazarenes, we might be closing ourselves off to seeing the truth about people; nobody is defined by where they were born or who they are related to. How do we allow our baptism to help define us?

ACTION

We are commissioned at Baptism to live as priests, prophets, and kings, just like Jesus! But what does this mean for us, and how can we strive to fulfill these roles? There are some simple ways to fulfill our priestly call: we dedicate time to individual prayer and learning about our faith, live our Sundays as holy days, and make sacrifices of time and talent (think Lent!). Jesus Christ, King of the Universe, left some pretty large shoes to fill. But we can strive for kingship humbly in the form of servant leadership—we can serve first, prioritize the needs of others, and help others grow into servants themselves. Pope Francis is an excellent example of servant leadership. When you think of a prophet, your mind might jump to predictions of the future (*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, anyone?). However, a prophet can be defined as an inspired teacher or proclaimer of God's will. Every Sunday, God sends us out to share the good news, to live as followers of Christ, and to reflect God's love in the world. Your baptismal call, and your challenge this week, is to focus on your work as a prophet. Do you proclaim God's will with your actions and words? Alternatively, do you keep your ear, heart, and mind open to encountering prophets, as the Nazarenes did not?

JOURNALING QUESTIONS

- As you reflect on your day or week, how did you fulfill your baptismal call to be a priest, prophet, and king? In what ways could you have done this better?