

4th Sunday of Ordinary Time C

Several years ago my oldest graduated from college, got his first job, and moved away
Career has blossomed, he met his wife, they have a son.

During the holidays he comes home – at church everyone would come up to him -

You're so tall – how's work ...

We see it here too The kids grow up - move out, get engaged

They come back – see family/friends – people gather round, ...

Same with Jesus in today's gospel –

An extension of last Sunday

Jesus comes home to Nazareth, to the synagogue where he grew up

He reads Is. – All were Amazed – BUT THEN → Isn't this Joseph's son?

They knew Him, He was one of them - & they'd heard about Cana, healings, ...

And while "They are amazed at His words" – they ask "Who is this guy?"

SO JESUS TEACHES THEM SOMETHING NEW

Jesus' mission wasn't just for them – it wasn't limited to those in Nazareth

Jesus' mission wasn't even limited to Israel - **neither were the prophets**

We see it in JER - Jeremiah "A prophet to the nations I appointed you"

SAME IS TRUE OF JESUS but locals ask "Who do you think you are?"

- Jesus had done miracles in Capernaum (not Nazareth)
- Elijah is sent to a widow in Sidon during famine (not in Israel)
- Elisha cures the leper from Syria (not lepers in Israel)

Jesus came for ALL – Salvation is Universal

Jesus brings Good News of Salvation thru forgiveness of sin – No matter what!

While **Salvation** is Good News – it **means we need to confront our sin**

& the role of the Prophet is to help us see our sin and deal with it

Jeremiah confronts Israel with its sin & *is ridiculed*

God tells him to stand firm – like a fortified city, a pillar of iron, a wall of brass
(cause there is gonna be flak) *Evil fights back!*

Jesus takes up the role of prophet and they go from 'all spoke well of him' to wrath

Confronting sin takes courage

MLK – racism or Bishop Romero in San Salvador

Jesus – confronting sin & taking our sin as His own

Jesus paid the penalty for our sin

Jesus invites us to look within, confront our sin and be forgiven

It's not easy – we can see sin of others, but we need to confront our own.

BUT WE DON'T DO IT ALONE

1 Cor 13 is there for a reason – 'without love I'm nothing, a noisy gong'

It is love that empowers courage to confront sin

& WHEN WE DO It is love that forgives it, and brings us home