

14th Sunday Ordinary Time - Year B

- In MA I read all about the Bahamas – Junkanoo – Conch – Sapodillas – Blue Holes
 - I knew all about them – but until I experienced them I didn't know them
 - I knew dillies were sweet – but not cinnamon sweet until I tasted them
 - I can know ABOUT something – but until I experience it, I don't really know it
- Same is true of Jesus
- These people in the Gospel knew all *about* Jesus – but they didn't know Jesus
 - I can tell you how I met Jesus – how I felt – my excitement
 - Until YOU meet Jesus and know Him its head not heart
- The people in today's readings are a warning for us
 - 1st reading "I am sending you to a people obstinate of heart, who rebel against me"
 - Gospel "the people were astonished" "they took offense at Him"
 - Look at the obstacles to their faith prejudice – jealousy – contempt – pride
 - "& He could do no mighty work there" (NB could not – NOT – would not)
 - *Faith is a prerequisite for miracles* – our faith empowers Jesus' miracles
 - Remember Jarius? 'fear not, only **believe**'
 - Remember Woman with hemorrhage? 'your **faith** has healed you'
 - Without faith – Jesus can do no mighty works
 - Without faith – Church can do no mighty works either
Great Architecture Music Liturgy NO REDEMPTION
Great 'stuff' but NO SALVATION

Without faith you'll never recognize Jesus for who He is.

BECAUSE

Jesus is only recognized for who he is at the resurrection

1. We are a Post-Resurrection People
 - WE CAN RECOGNIZE JESUS FOR WHO HE IS
2. God became man and defeated death – for me – for US.
Our sins are forgiven

Independence Day Weekend – listen

- Like it or not → When Independence became a reality, faith was part of it, JESUS was part of it.
 - (Bahamas explicitly declared itself a Christian nation.)
 - Can we ever be truly free without faith?
 - Can we ever be truly free without forgiveness of sin?
 - Without JESUS is there ever true freedom, liberty, independence?
Or are we still in bondage?

Can you really legislate true freedom?

Is freedom something we get from Congress or Parliament?

OR

Is freedom only really possible thru forgiveness of sin.

- True liberty, True freedom comes from JESUS