

Sunday Reflection

◆ **First Reading:** *Ezekiel 2:2-5*

◆ **Second Reading:** *2 Corinthians 12:7-10*

◆ **Gospel:** *Mark 6:1-6*

Firstly in this gospel reading to-day, there's a mention of the brothers and sisters of Jesus "THIS IS THE CARPENTER, SURELY, THE SON OF MARY, THE BROTHER OF JAMES, JOSET, JUDE & SIMON? HIS SISTERS TOO, ARE THEY NOT HERE WITH US?" These relatives of Jesus refer to his extended family, these were the cousins and other distant relatives of Mary and Joseph ; Mary had only 1 child, Jesus, conceived by the Holy Spirit ; He was reared in Nazareth, and secondly, in this gospel reading, we can see how his own people rejected him as the Messiah, Son of God

"A PROPHET IS ONLY DESPISED IN HIS OWN COUNTRY, AMONG HIS OWN RELATIONS, AND IN HIS OWN HOUSE" ; Jesus cured a few sick people in Nazareth, he was amazed at their lack of faith, so he left Nazareth, never to return! It's a sad scenario, rejected by his own people, it was a blatant lost opportunity for the population of Nazareth, a tragedy!

Can we learn anything from the Lord's visit to his home-town? there's always something we can learn from the life & times of Jesus ;

How many lost opportunities have you had deal with so far in your life? last Tuesday for example the English team made sure they were not going to loose-out on their opportunity to beat Germany in order to secure their place in the European championship quarter finals, well done!!, or for example if you don't show up for your job interview, then don't expect to get the job, another lost opportunity! But moving on to our spiritual overview of life, is it possible to loose opportunities for spiritual growth? What does that mean? it means NOT to avail of the many opportunities that come our way in order to deepen our union with God, it's that constant postponing of real prayer and proper commitment in getting prepared for eternity, the excuses are multiple "Oh!, I'll get around to it some day"!

“I’ve more important things to deal with, for the time being that religion stuff is not urgent” or words to that effect. And so time passes, years pass, more and more opportunities to grow spiritually are lost ; suddenly tragedy strikes, and then “oh dear!, oh! dear! now what do I do?, I can’t even remember the Our Father”. Those type of tragedies, spiritual tragedies, lost opportunities are so common ; the best day to get to know God is TO-DAY ; the best day to pray is TO-DAY the best day to be ready for eternity is TO-DAY ; Jesus the Saviour was right when he stated “BE ON THE ALERT, BE VIGILANT IN PRAYER, FOR YOU DO NOT KNOW THE DAY NOR THE HOUR WHEN THE MASTER OF THE HOUSEHOLD WILL COME” (Mark 13 ;33) meaning, always be ready for the Lord-of-Life, be in a state of grace at all times, and never to treat your religion with casual sarcastic indifference!

An after thought! what is your opinion? Why do believers give up their faith and the practice of their religion? It can’t all be the fault of the clergy and hierarchy ; would it be that the former believers have given up on wanting to reach the joys of Heaven? st.Paul states “What the human eye has never seen nor ear heard, nor what man has ever conceived in his heart all the things that God has prepared for those who love him..” ; in our so-called “enlightened” society, would it be that, collectively, God really is no longer important, so therefore why bother loving him?, and then what? “oh! dear!, oh dear!, I’ve forgotten the Our Father”, then Satan steps in and says “NOT TO WORRY! WITH NO REAL LOVE OF GOD AROUND, I’LL TAKE OVER!”

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