

Theme of the Week - Lack of faith

In many of the Gospels we hear on Sunday, we usually find something beautiful is said. Something that is powerful, deep and meaningful. A message that gets us to think and may bring us joy, a smile or happiness in how remarkable Jesus and his ministry was and still is. Sunday's Gospel brings a little sadness when we hear what happens to Jesus when he goes home; He is rejected by his own. Something we know will happen later in his life. However, if we truly reflect on what we hear and we look deep into ourselves and how we treat others, the message from the Gospel is still as powerful.

Mark's Gospel portrays Jesus as suffering a similar fate to that of other Jewish prophets of old —rejection of Him and His message. There is a deliberate slur on his name too as the people of his home town wonder about him aloud "the son of Mary" —in the world of ancient Israel people, their last names were formed from their father's last name, unless they were illegitimate, no one was ever referred to as the son of their mother. Jesus is profoundly affected by the way people react to him, mistrust here somehow disables him. His ministry amongst his own people is limited by their lack of trust and so he moves on and never returns to Nazareth again.

If we really truly examine the Gospel, I think we can see ourselves both in how those in the synagogue treated Jesus and in how Jesus felt. Sometimes in our lives we have negative feeling towards others, jealousy, resentment, anger. Most times it very difficult to stop, it seems like something we can't help. But what we can help is what we do with this feeling. What we go on to do or say to others, how we make them feel is our choice! And when we do the negative, say the negative, are negative, we do lack in faith! Faith is a belief in a religion, a complete trust in someone. Our faith is a complete trust and belief in God and God is love. When we treat people badly, we don't show our faith, we lack it. Worst still, we make others feel worse, alone, upset, not loved. Something that goes completely against our faith!

We work with all people, regardless of gender, disability, age, race, ethnicity, nationality, culture, sexual orientation, political or religious belief. We celebrate diversity as we come together and seek justice for all. Each of us is made in God's image. Every person has an innate human dignity no one can take away. Pope Francis says "Every person is worthy of our giving...they are God's handiwork, his creation. God created that person in his image, and he or she reflects something of God's glory. Every human being is the object of God's infinite tenderness, and he himself is present in their lives." Pope Francis, *Evangelii Gaudium*, 274.

Let us not lack faith in how we treat others. Let us actually show our true faith and love and care for others to ensure Human Dignity is for all!

Lack of faith

Weekly Reflections
7th July 2024



A reading from the Gospel of St Mark 6:1-6

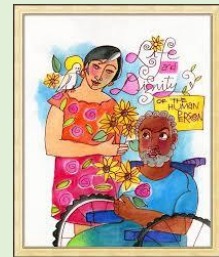
Jesus went to his home town and his disciples accompanied him. With the coming of the sabbath he began teaching in the synagogue and most of them were astonished when they heard him. They said, 'Where did the man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been granted him, and these miracles that are worked through him? This is the carpenter, surely, the son of Mary, the brother of James and Joset and Jude and Simon? His sisters, too, are they not here with us?' And they would not accept him. And Jesus said to them, 'A prophet is only despised in his own country, among his own relations and in his own house'; and he could work no miracle there, though he cured a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Prayer for the Week

Heavenly Father,
We all have lacked faith at some point in our life. Allow us to grow through your wisdom and direction so we too can amaze others in our God made image and bring faith to others.

Through Christ our Lord

Amen



Catholic Social Teaching of Human Dignity

Each of us is made in God's image. Every person has an innate human dignity no one can take away.

Our common humanity requires that we respect and uphold the dignity of each and every individual.

Everything else flows from this dignity. Saint Pope John Paul II in *Centesimus Annus* 1 said "Human persons are willed by God; they are imprinted with God's image. Their dignity does not come from the work they do, but from the persons they are".

How can you be:

Loving and Caring

Day 1

What is sad about Sunday's Gospel?

Why do you think the people of Jesus's hometown rejected Him?

Day 2

Why do you think Jesus is so affected by being rejected by his own people?

Day 3

Have you ever been negative to someone? After you have, how does that make them feel but also how do you feel? What does the Catholic Social Teaching principle of Human Dignity mean and how can we illustrate it to others?