

AUGUST 2, 2019
Friday of the 17th Week in OT
Mt. 13: 54-58

ORDINARY AND EXTRAORDINARY

In our gospel for today, we heard that Jesus Christ returned to his hometown of Nazareth. A lot of people recognized him as the Joseph's carpenter's son, his mother, is Mary, and his relatives were known to them. He is one of their own, a working man just like themselves. Yet, they are surprised about his way of life and that he is not like them. The people of Nazareth are astonished at his wisdom and his miraculous powers. They were mystified by him and asked where could he have got all that from?

Jesus was both ordinary and extraordinary. This man revealed God in a unique way. He was fully human yet there was the wisdom and power of God at work within him. He was like us in every way, except sin. This is the scandal of the incarnation that so disturbed the people of Nazareth. They are so critical of Jesus, they are closed minded, they don't accept Jesus because they considered Him just a carpenter's son – an ordinary person in their community.

Really familiarity breeds contempt. Our Lord Jesus Christ could do no mighty works in his own birthplace because the people who were familiar with him were closed-minded despised his claim to speak and act in the name of God. If people come together to hate and refuse to understand others different than themselves, then they will see no other point of view than their own and they will refuse to love and accept others.

So, my sisters and brothers, are we critical towards others, especially to those who are close to us? Most of the time, the most severe critics are often very familiar to us - members of our family, neighbor, whom we considered friends, or worker we rub

shoulders with on a regular basis. How do we view those who are familiar to us? With kindness and respect or with a critical and judgmental spirit? Despite of what He experienced in his hometown, still Jesus treat them with love and understanding, and prayed for them. Let us also pray for those who misjudged us, mistreat us and your reward will be great in heaven – our home. There is no place like home wherein we are loved and welcomed.