

Friday August 3, 2018

3Readings: no. 405, p. 1520 1st Reading: Jeremiah 26.1-9 Gospel: Matthew 13.54-58 **ferial**

In these verses, from the book of the prophet Jeremiah, we listen, as the prophet calls out the people of Judah. There is a clear ultimate communicated and it is that people are to reform their ways, or risk severe consequences. It's not the first time this people have needed some error correction. Correction though is always difficult and quite unpopular. It isn't one of humankind's preferred experiences to learn we could be wrong or misdirected. Jeremiah could rightly have said, I'm only the servant of God. Don't shoot the messenger! But he faithfully carries out, not his, but God's will. I think we have to honour any spokespeople of God these days with courage enough to stick their neck before the home crowd.

Well Jesus is in his hometown of Nazareth and the citizens can hardly recognize their native son. He communicates spiritual insights that are new and amazing, and it's caused people to question this wisdom's origins. Their's is indeed a great question. Where did Jesus get all this new wisdom and power? Where could it come from? The townsfolk partly answer their own question by eliminating any natural or physical origins.

His brothers and sisters are not that fantastic, and they're not yet privy to just how remarkable is his mother Mary. So it's a legitimate question. The source though of the incredible wisdom and wonders Jesus demonstrates is the same from whence Jeremiah's wisdom is derived. The Holy and Merciful Mind of God! Quite outside the full grasps of humankind's natural faculties.

Friends, there are no miracles without faith in Jesus and so the key to satisfying our innate sense of wonder and awe relates to our faith development and spiritual maturity. What attention then do we give to growing in our awareness of God presence? Could we bring greater attentiveness to our listening? Through prayer and the Holy Word of God, we are necessarily led to the table of Eucharist? I imagine this might be, how we most honour the prophetic component of our baptism when we elevated to office of priest, **prophet** and king.

Amen