



Lent reflection for March 5, 2024

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Mark 6:1-13

He left that place and came to his hometown, and his disciples followed him. On the Sabbath he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astounded. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What is this wisdom that has been given to him? What deeds of power are being done by his hands! Is not this the carpenter, the son of Mary and brother of James and Joses and Judas and Simon, and are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Then Jesus said to them, “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house.” And he could do no deed of power there, except that he laid his hands on a few sick people and cured them. And he was amazed at their unbelief.

Then he went about among the villages teaching. He called the twelve and began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over the unclean spirits. He ordered them to take nothing for their journey except a staff: no bread, no bag, no money in their belts, but to wear sandals and not to put on two tunics. He said to them, “Wherever you enter a house, stay there until you leave the place. If any place will not welcome you and they refuse to hear you, as you leave, shake off the dust that is on your feet as a testimony against them.” So they went out and proclaimed that all should repent. They cast out many demons and anointed with oil many who were sick and cured them.

Today’s Reflection is by Dennis Labbanicz

What jumps out to me most about this passage is the quote that Jesus says “Prophets are not without honor, except in their hometown and among their own kin and in their own house”. I had to re-read it several times because the wording is a double negative. It honestly tripped me up as I tried to understand what Mark is saying to us all. After a bunch of re-reads what I believe Jesus

is saying is that even in his hometown where people have known him his entire life there is still skepticism. Even he is “amazed at their unbelief” from the people that know him best.

I take that as very important and telling for myself and all of our journey in faith. Speaking for one, there are days where I doubt my own faith. In the world there is hatred, poverty, sadness, greed, and so many people doing evil deeds - so much of our life harps on this negativity. I find myself asking “why would God let something like all these bad things happen?” You read this passage and individuals who could see the son of God in the flesh were having their own doubts. But what’s important to remember is that the world has so much more good in it than bad. The message of the second paragraph talks about how he reacted to this disbelief. Jesus sends the Apostles out in pairs to teach. Like them we can’t walk this journey alone and we need each other as Christians for faith. It’s important that we use each other for support; picking up our neighbors when they need it. Our journey with faith is our own, but it is also about the community and world we all belong in together



Dennis lives in South Slope with his wife Casey, kids Eleanor and Charlie, and dog Bones. He joined Holy Apostles in 2022 when Charlie was baptized in the church. He loves cooking and sports, especially the Mets (although the constant heartbreak makes him question his own sanity).