

July 7-8, 2018

Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 2:2-5

Second Corinthians 12:7-10

Mark 6:1-6

Hard of face and obstinate of heart!!!

How DARE you!

Obstinate of heart and hard of face...what gives you the right?

Who do you think you are!?!?!

Ummmm, that would be God talking....and God pretty much gets to say whatever he wants. As the one who sees what no man sees and well understands our human hearts, God is the final judge of character and labeler of our truest directions/motivations. In both our first reading from Ezekiel (the above referenced words) and in the passage from the Gospel of Mark where Jesus is derided by his own people; this is a sharp turn around from last week's images of Jesus curing the sick and raising the dead. Demonstrating a keen awareness of the people whom he created, within the Scriptures we hear of Jesus himself being amazed at people's lack of faith...perhaps preferring to hold to their SMALL image of how things should be and how God should manifest himself? Thus is the reflection for another Summer weekend; are we insistent on keeping God as WE WANT HIM TO BE or are we open to continually being amazed at how God is still creating the world? Blatant examples of the former would be our ancestors who thought it was acceptable to enslave human beings, kill non-believers and use God as cover to gain power and control (hmmmm, not just our ancestors, all of this still continues today); examples of the latter are those who work for inclusivity, those who see grace in people of every ethnicity, orientation, gender, age and life circumstance, those who see people first and not their 'legal status', people who see 'differences' as a challenge to grow and not an enemy to be defeated. This weekend, Jesus is amazed at people's lack of faith and God tells Ezekiel that he is sending him out among people who are hard of face and obstinate of heart. In this day and age of people constructing their own truths to fit their circumstances, what is our immediate reaction when we overhear God implying that **WE** are hard of heart and **WE** are obstinate? Do we deny and attempt to kill the messenger or do we take the words to heart and try to renew ourselves?

The watermelon has been eaten, the ice cream has been slurped, the Fourth of July has come and gone; THANK YOU for joining today with our Santa Clara community for another Summer weekend to hear and digest the sacred. You are reminded that **NEXT SUNDAY, July 15th, newly ordained - Deacon Daniel will be returning to us at the 10am Mass** to celebrate his ordination with us. You are invited to adjust your schedules so as to share the 10am Sunday Mass and enjoy the post-Mass reception with Deacon Daniel and his family. The following weekend after Deacon Daniel's celebration, **SATURDAY, July 21st, is our FIRST LA CENA - our VILLAGE/Parish SUPPER.** It starts with the 5pm Mass and flows into the outdoor meal immediately following. Please use the flyers in the Bulletin or on the table beneath the La Cena Poster to make your reservations NOW as you cannot purchase tickets on the night of the 21st. As Summer progresses, enjoy its many splendors and remember....you are loved. FKB