

Worship at Home – Trinity 5

Sunday 4th July 2021

Prepared by Rev Adam Pawley, Rector

Prayer to start

Almighty God, whose Son revealed in signs and miracles the wonder of your saving presence: renew your people with your heavenly grace, and in all our weakness sustain us by your mighty power; through Jesus Christ your Son our Lord, who is alive and reigns with you, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. **Amen.**



Bible Reading – Mark 6:1-7,12-13

Jesus went to his hometown, accompanied by his disciples. ²When the Sabbath came, he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. ‘Where did this man get these things?’ they asked. ‘What’s this wisdom that has been given him? What are these remarkable miracles he is performing?’ ³Isn’t this the carpenter? Isn’t this Mary’s son and the brother of James, Joseph, Judas and Simon? Aren’t his sisters here with us?’ And they took offence at him. ⁴Jesus said to them, ‘A prophet is not without honour except in his own town, among his relatives and in his own home.’ ⁵He could not do any miracles there, except lay his hands on a few people who were ill and heal them. ⁶He was amazed at their lack of faith.

Then Jesus went around teaching from village to village. ⁷Calling the Twelve to him, he began to send them out two by two and gave them authority over impure spirits... ¹²They went out and preached that people should repent. ¹³They drove out many demons and anointed with oil many people who were ill and healed them.

Thought

I wonder what Jesus expected when he first took his disciples to his hometown of Nazareth? His trip home gets off to a good start – he begins to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were amazed. Yet by the time he came to do the miraculous, even he, the Son of God, could not heal the sick. Yet when he went on his way, and travelled from village to village, it was not only Jesus who carried out the miracles but also his twelve disciples, to whom he now gave authority to heal and cast out evil spirits as they called those they met to turn and follow God.

The people of Jesus’ hometown in their amazement started out so well, but sadly, their astonishment did not turn to praise but to envy, jealousy and cynicism... Knowing who he was – Mary’s son, the carpenter – to him “they took offence” (v3).

I wonder how do we respond when we see, hear or learn about a miracle of Jesus? I wonder too, how we react when we hear of a peer or someone we know, 'succeeding'? Are we always pleased for them? Do we stand amazed and turn to God in praise and awe and wonder? Do we give thanks to God for his goodness, greatness and grace? Do we celebrate God's blessing on the person who we know has done well? Or do we think to ourselves, how unfair! Why should they be treated so generously and yet not me?! Why Jesus and not me!? It is true that there is always someone 'worse off' than us, but are we always pleased that there is always someone 'better' than us too? Especially if they are our own 'peer'!

The Apostle Paul, wrote to the Galatian Christians, however:

"In Christ Jesus you are all children of God through faith... There is neither Jew nor Gentile, neither slave nor free, nor is there male and female, for you are all one in Christ Jesus." (Galatians 3:26-28)

The truth is we are all equal in God's sight. Yes, Jesus is our gold standard for living and he lived a blessed life, but this also meant he lived a hard life. He is the Son of God, who did the miraculous for us, but before the ultimate miracle of the Resurrection, he suffered for us. We have no reason to take offence at him, only gratitude for him. I wonder if Jesus' contemporaries from Nazareth ever realised that Jesus was not just Mary's son, but also the Son of God? More significantly today – I wonder how do *you* see Jesus? As Mary's son who unjustly received more than 'I' will ever receive? Or do you see him as who he really is – the Son of God, who suffered, died and was buried, but went on to rise from the dead because he always has our best interests of forgiveness and new life at heart? When we hear a good news story, do we think, why not me? Or do we think – as his disciples would have thought - 'Yes God! Thank you for blessing them as you have done! Now please help me to be a blessing to others too.'

Closing Prayers

Heavenly Father, thank you for the gift of your Son to us. Forgive us when we are envious of others who seem to lead more successful lives than us. Help us to be grateful for who we are and the calling that you have given us, when we might find that call tough as well as easy too. **Amen.**

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name; thy kingdom come; thy will be done; on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread. And forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us. And lead us not into temptation; but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, the power and the glory, for ever and ever. **Amen.**

*We hope you are safe and well. Please get in touch if we can help (Adam 01978 760439, Gareth 07731 827988). This Sunday (4 July) we have Holy Communion at 9:30am in Penyffordd and 11am in Hope. **On Thursday we have Holy Communion at 1:30pm in Hope.** You are very welcome to join us.*