

Reflection on Mark 6:1-13

This Gospel reading this Sunday begins as Jesus and his disciples return home, to his native place. On the Sabbath, Jesus went to the synagogue, and he began to teach. All who listened to Jesus were astonished. They were taken aback at the power of his teaching as well as the power of his presence. This was Jesus, a man they knew very well. He was a man who had grown up in their midst.

How did Jesus become so knowledgeable and such a powerful speaker? He was the son of a carpenter, not the son of a rabbi. Many of the people in his hometown discounted Jesus and his message. They refused to listen to him. After all, who did Jesus think he was to preach to the people who had known him from birth?

Jesus replied to their comments and questions by saying that typically a prophet is not honored by the people who have known him from birth. Jesus realized that he was too familiar to the people who had known him as a child. They only saw in him what they wanted to see. Thus, Jesus was unable to perform any great deeds there as they did not have faith in him.

In baptism, we are called and sent, like the disciples, to proclaim the Good News of God in Christ by word and example.

It can be easy to discount the people whom we know the best. They are so familiar to us that we simply may take them for granted. Take a moment and think about the people in your life: what are their gifts?

How do they gift you with their love and care?

How do they make the love of God known?

Do you appreciate their gifts and talents?

Do you let them know how important they are to you?

May we make time to give thanks for the many people who love and care about us! In some small way, let them know how grateful you are to have them in your life!