

Sunday14-B5 homily by Fr. Gabor

Read: Ezekiel 2:2-5; 2 Corinthians 12:7-10; Mark 6:1-6.

Today's readings tell us about a very important ministry that all of us have received; namely prophecy. The claim that we all have a prophetic mission may sound strange or pious or just weird, therefore I will try to give a little bit of description of it. The prophetic mission is to do with the word prophet, which comes from the word 'profess', and to profess means to give witness to God's message. God's message is usually to do with present or future events. So to prophesise is not only about telling about the future.

The readings give us more info about how we can tell people about God's message. In the first reading we hear the prophet saying that the spirit came to him. The same Holy Spirit came to us when we were baptised. During our baptism ceremony the priest anointed us to carry out Jesus' priestly, kingly and prophetic mission. Then later on at our confirmation we were anointed again with the same chrism and the gifts of the Holy Spirit were unleashed in their full power, so that we can carry out Jesus' priestly, kingly and prophetic mission. In order to carry out our prophetic mission we need to recommit ourselves to Jesus and his ministry, and ask the Holy Spirit to increase the presence of his gifts in us.

Another important thing we need for a prophetic mission is to listen. Remember in the first reading Ezekiel says after he had received the Spirit: 'I heard the Lord speaking to me.' Surely we can also listen to the Lord and hear his message for the people that live around us, be it relatives or neighbours or colleagues or even parishioners. We need to calm down and say to the Lord: 'Speak Father, your son/ daughter is listening.'

The first reading also tells us that the message given to the prophet is not always an easy one. In fact it can be very challenging. The Lord calls Ezekiel to go to the rebels of Israel who have been in revolt against him, defiant and obstinate, and it doesn't matter whether they will listen or not. Ezekiel just has to go and pass on God's message to them. The Church, the mystical Body of Christ looks at itself as the new Israel and there are many rebels and defiant members of the Church, the Body of Christ; 85 percent of baptised Christians in our country do not go to Church on Sundays to thank God for his blessings and meet God's family, and there are those who live unchristian lives both among practicing and non-practicing members, then there are those who pick and choose what they accept of the Church's teaching and those who approve anti-life practices, and anti-Christian marriage practices. They are today's rebels and defiant members of the new Israel. God is sending you and I to the rebels and defiant to pass on his message.

You may not want to go, because of feeling inadequate or weak or afraid of how people would react. God's answer to our fears is in the second reading: 'my grace is enough for you: my power is at its best in weakness.' Both Paul and

Ezekiel, and men and woman throughout the centuries were sent in weakness, because none of them were super humans and none of them knew how to talk to people about God's message, but each faced the rebels and defiant in their own circumstances and were aware of their responsibility to tell people what they believed was the Father's message to them.

After all, as Mother Teresa said our Christian mission is not about success, but about faithfulness to the Father. The Gospel reading clearly tells us that Jesus' mission in his own town was unsuccessful, because he could heal only a few people, but that was the result of the lack of faith of the inhabitants of his own town. He still remained faithful to his mission.

So to summarise our prophetic mission:

1. We all have received it at our baptism.
2. We all have received God's Spirit to carry out our prophetic mission.
3. We all can listen to God, if we want to.
4. God's message can sometimes be a challenging one.
5. Today's rebels and defiant people are first of all the 85 percent Catholics who do not follow Jesus' path; they need to be encouraged by us to come back to the heavenly Father through the members of the Body of Christ, the Church.
6. We are sent in weakness, but we also receive God's grace.
7. Finally prophetic mission is not about success, but faithfulness to God's word.