



The Shepherd's Voice

July 3, 2012

By Fr. Joe Rees

“The Honorable Prophet: Jesus!”

And Jesus said to (those who doubted Him), “**A prophet is not without honor, except in his hometown and among his relatives and in his own household.**” And He could do no mighty work there...” Mark 6: 4-5.

Jesus had just done miraculous healings near the Sea of Galilee as we heard in Sunday's Gospel. People came from miles around to see Him and even to touch the hem of His robe! Power went forth from Him and He healed! Surely this was no ordinary prophet! He wasn't appreciated by those who knew Him, but, He surely was a man sent from God, with the abilities that only God could have. We'd say today that He was sent from heaven!

His own townspeople, of Nazareth, could not see the potential or power of His Presence amongst them. They only saw Him through the lens of the past, of His growing up, learning from Joseph the carpenter trade, of playing in the neighborhood with the other boys. Their perspective was a paradigm of their own making instead of realizing the new paradigm of a man blossoming into the fullness of His divine calling and zeal to fulfill the will of God. You could just hear them saying, “Who does he think he is?! Why, he's just a carpenter's son, and not such a good carpenter at that!” “Where does he get all this wisdom and miracles?” Theirs was a climate of doubt. You might say, ‘always cloudy with a chance of rain!’ They just could not ‘imagine’ Jesus to be anyone else. Some still do that today. You know it says in my NAS Bible footnote, “it was not that Jesus did not have the power or could not perform the miracles in Nazareth, but that He *chose* not to in such a climate of disbelief.” Where God is not welcomed, the people forgo the fullness of His grace. Where He is received with joy, expectation, and belief that He's going to change circumstances, bring wisdom, and

healing to those in need...you might say...God shows up! (He's always there of course.) If there is an attitude of gratitude, God is pleased and wants to release His grace on a community of true believers.

I found it fascinating that there are only two occurrences of the Greek word used for ‘marvel’. Here in verse 6 the text says, “And He marveled because of their unbelief.” In Luke 7:9 it says, Jesus “marveled at the centurion” (who believed Jesus could heal his servant!) There Jesus says, “I say to you, not even in all Israel have I found such great faith.” The same word is used only twice for opposite conditions of the people's belief; one realizing their lack of faith, and one the centurion's great faith. In the Mark account, Jesus' marveling is laced with disappointment, such that some versions say “wondered” as in ‘can they really not see all the goodness that My Father is bringing them?!’ It was incredulous that they wouldn't believe, for even there He did “heal a few sick people”! In the case of the centurion (who is not expected to believe), Jesus brings the grace of heaven to earth and those folks are treated to what God on earth can really do!

Jesus wants to come into your life today with His grace and blessing. Welcome Him. He wants to surprise you with joy. He wants to uplift you with His wisdom and impart it to you. He wants to show you that there is more to this life than what you think there is by just living your own paradigm; within your own box. He wants to give you the vision of heaven with more than you or I could ever expect. It's so wonderful that we'll spend an eternity just traveling to see the sights that we've never seen before. As I was saying to a friend this morning, I'd be happy seeing all the beauty of this earth for the next million years...and then again, in heaven I'll have all eternity! Jesus wants to give you the foretaste of that in His touch upon your heart and mind. Trust Him to open new vistas to

you and increase your enthusiasm for life, to expect the miracle instead of the rainy day! Don't let Jesus 'marvel' with disappointment over our unbelief! Let Him rejoice and share with gladness His goodness, mercy and abundant grace with us who with patient and uncomplicated, complying wills, simply *believe and know that God is working His purposes out and with His love for you glorifying Himself in you.*

Praying for the climate of belief in our parish to 'expect sunny' and to know that Jesus is not finished with us yet and He'll do more miracles than we could ever possibly ask for or imagine!

Yours in Christ's love,
Fr. Joe

Sunday Servers this week...

| July 8, 2012 | 6 Pentecost | 8:00 a.m. Service | 10:15 a.m. Service |
|----------------------|----------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------------------------|
| First Reader | Ezekiel 2:1-7 | Maureen Green | Cline Handy |
| Psalm Reader | Psalm 123 | Choir | Acolyte |
| Second Reader | 2 Corinthians 8:1-15 | Judy Gillease | Ann Fox |
| Intercessors | | Joy Rosendale | Acolyte |
| Lay Euch. Ministers | | Jane Rost, Joan Jacobs | Richard Rieder, KC Winward |
| Acolytes | | Mitch Dubski | Chris Kilby (C), David A. (T1), Caitlen B. (T2) |
| Welcomers | | Jane Rost | Maureen Green, Joan Gast, Ruth Yahn |
| Ushers | | Dick Sholly, Rob Ackerman | Dink Nash, Ted Vallas, Ken Putnam, JR Fox |
| Vestry Person of Day | | | Carolyn Blumberg |
| Healing Ministers | | Kay & Alfred Focke | Ann F, Sarah F, Michael M, Petey S |
| Counters | | | Cline Handy & Michael Murphy |

No First Wednesday Healing Service this Month

All Church Picnic

Sunday, July 15th at 12:30 p.m.

Buddy Todd Park in Oceanside

We will provide the hamburgers, hot dogs, buns, & bottled water.

You bring salad, or beans, or dessert or ... to share.

Fun and games for the whole family.

If you have a portable shade structure that you would be willing to set up, please bring that.

Sunday at Grace

8:00 a.m.- Holy Eucharist Service
9:30 a.m.-2nd Sunday Fellowship
10:00 a.m.- No Sunday School
10:15 a.m. – Holy Eucharist
Service with Worship Team

Happy Independence Day!

Readings for Sunday

Ezekiel 2:1-7
Psalm 123
2 Corinthians 12:2-10
Mark 6:1-6

We are using the English Standard
Version of the Bible and the Lectionary
from the Book of Common Prayer (Year B)

This Week at Grace –July 3- July 10, 2012

Tues. July 3

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study -Revelation
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis

Wed July 4

Independence Day – church office closed

Thurs. July 5

7:00 a.m. – Bible Study
11:30 a.m. Healing Eucharist – Oasis

Fri. July 6

Fr. Joe's Day Off

Sat. July 7

8:00 a.m. Men's Bible Study
9:30 a.m. Sewing of Bible holders for chairs

Sun. July 8

8:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service
9:30 a.m. Fellowship
10:15 a.m. Holy Eucharist Service/ Worship Team

Mon. July 9

6:30 a.m. Men's Prayer

Tues. July 10

11:30 a.m. Rector's Bible Study at Grace
4:30 p.m. Healing Eucharist at the Oasis

Weekly – There are over 25 small groups meeting during the week. Check our newsletter for a list of all the groups or you can find the list on our website: www.graceanglicanchurch.com.

Saturday, July 7th – We are still working on the Bible holders for the chairs in the church. Bring your sewing machine and your lunch and help sew. We also need people to cut the fabric out. Everyone is welcome to help. We got a lot done last Saturday and now that we know what we are doing it will go a lot faster.

Rector's Bible Study
Tuesdays
11:30 a.m.

B.Y.O.L. (Bring your own lunch)

Fr. Joe is leading the group through a study of the Book of Revelation.

Everyone is welcome.

Save the date!

July 4 Church office closed
July 4 No 1st Wednesday healing service
July 7 Men's Bible Study
9:30 a.m.-Sewing project
July 11 Soaking Prayer
July 14 Men's Bible Study
July 14 Prayers & Squares
July 15 **All Church Picnic at Buddy Todd Park**
July 18 Br. Benno's Team at 6:25 a.m.
July 21 Men's Fellowship
July 22 Small Group Leaders Meeting
July 28 Men's Bible Study