

**14<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY YEAR B 2021.**

**REJECTED AT HOME GROUND:**

Two years ago when I went to Africa, in my former parish, as I was saying mass, I didn't meet the expectations of the parishioners. They didn't get what they expected and especially in my homily! They had come in big numbers with high expectations. I preached for 10 minutes and they were so discouraged indeed. They expected me to preach for more than an hour. You could see the "Why"? written in their faces. Courageous women faced me after mass and expressed their disappointment in the short service. They didn't know where to go with all the extra time! "He must have been spoiled in America, we expected to hear stories of his life in America, people, climate, the churches, and the political set up." Their anxieties were very evident.

Consider the case of Jesus, with all the expectations and anxieties of going to Nazareth, his hometown. People must have heard what He did, the miracles he worked. He got a rude shock when they rejected him. They were the losers because he could not work any miracle among them except for curing a few of the sick.

The same case is being seen in the first reading. The Prophet is being warned by God that he is being sent among stubborn Israelites who have rebelled against God. The Prophet Ezekiel is being warned they would be negative to him hence to be prepared for ***opposition and rejection.***

Jesus in the Gospel is facing the same, this time from his very own. They couldn't bring themselves to terms with his ***wisdom, gifts, and greatness.*** They knew His humble background, "Don't we know his father, mother, and brothers. ***Where did he get all this wisdom from?***" ***And they wouldn't accept him.*** Jesus was rejected by His own people. and too by the world.

What about you and me, are we going to reject him. Do we recognize his wisdom and powers?

What about other people, especially servants of the Gospel?

How much do we negatively criticize, ***judge them, form an opinion of them according to our standard?***

***Do we recognize and appreciate their sacrifice?***

***Do we limit their effectiveness by Gossiping about them unnecessarily and by making uncondusive work environments?***

***Do we see the good in them or only the negative?***

It is so hurtful to be rejected by the people you trust and serve.

Jesus was rejected by His own and He was so amazed by their ***unbelief***.

He was unable to work any miracle except for a few cases.

It is so difficult to help against peoples' will.

Rejection can easily turn to ***anger and lack of initiative in a person***.

***We have in one way or another experienced rejection. Do we feel frustrated and helpless? How do we*** react towards that? It is so painful as human beings. We should learn from Jesus. He never became embittered and this is why He cured some cases despite rejection.

We are called to do the same not to get discouraged. This is the call in the second reading. Paul emphasizes the fact that ***"I was given a thorn in the flesh to batter me and prevent me from getting above myself."***

He trusted in God. God's ***Grace was enough for him***.

**LET US TRUST IN GOD. HIS GRACE IS ENOUGH FOR US.**