



# Fourteenth Sunday Of The Year

## Rejecting The Messenger

### Introduction

Jesus had made a big impact in other towns and villages, yet when he came to his native village his own people rejected him. Why? They felt they knew all about him, and that there he had nothing to offer them. The same Jesus comes to visit us during his Eucharist. We have a chance to listen to him and to receive him into our hearts and into our lives.

### First Reading (Ezekiel 2: 2-5)

God will not allow his chosen people to remain in ignorance of their disobedience. He sends them a prophet to call them to change their ways.

### Second Reading (2 Cor 12: 7-10)

In the midst of temptations and difficulties of every kind Paul does not rely on his own resources but on the grace of God.

### Gospel (Mark 6: 1-16)

True to the proverb that no prophet is honoured by his own people, Christ rejected by the people of Nazareth.

### Prayer Of The Faithful

Let us pray to God, that unlike the people of Nazareth, we may be open to his message no matter how it comes to us.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For Christians: that they may be able to speak Christ's truth to the world with courage and love, even though they too may frequently be rejected as he was. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.



## Liturgy Cycle B

For all temporal leaders: that they may be open to God's guidance, so that they may secure peace and freedom for all those entrusted to them. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

For all those who live in darkness of error or prejudice: that they may receive the truth with humility. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

That we may be able to recognize the good in the people with whom we work and live, and be influenced by that rather than by their human weakness and imperfections. Let us pray to the Lord.

R: Lord, hear our prayer.

### Communion Reflection

None of us likes to hear the truth especially when it hurts  
Who likes to be told that he is on the wrong track?  
Who wants to hear that things in his garden  
are far from rosy?

We shy away from these things.  
The reason is obvious.  
The truth hurts and none of us likes being hurt.

Consequently we can take the truth  
only in small doses.  
Few people are prepared to tell us the truth.  
They do not want to upset or hurt us.

And yet the truth is the only thing that will save us,  
the only thing that will set us free,  
the only thing that will let light into our darkness.

But there is an art in telling it.  
That art consist in being  
totally honest and totally kind at the same time.

The person who out of love for us tells the truth,  
knowing that it is going to hurt,  
and at the risk of losing our friendship,  
is a true friend.