

## 14<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Ordinary Time

July 7, 2024: Ez 2:2-5 | Ps 123:1-4 | 2 Cor 12:7-10 | Mk 6:1-6

**Pray:** Holy Spirit, one with the Father and the Son, strengthen me with your courage, wisdom, and grace, and mold my heart like yours in love, truth, and action to carry on your mission of hope. Amen.

**God's grace is sufficient for us and makes us strong and resilient to challenges.**

This week's readings, which are remarkably relevant to the challenges we face as Christians today, offer hope and encouragement to all weary souls! In the first reading, the prophet Ezekiel is called by God and transformed by the presence of the Holy Spirit. This divine intervention equips him to minister to the people of Israel, who were living rebellious lives and listening to false prophets. He was called to share the truth, encourage repentance, and help them change their ways, even amidst "hard faces and obstinate hearts."

In the second reading, like in Jesus's ministry, St. Paul's letter to the Corinthians speaks of personal suffering, disappointments, and challenges he faced in his ministry by people who took offense to what he was teaching and even questioned his authority.

Finally, the Gospel of Mark today offers a powerful message that resonates with our current struggles and offers us hope and strength. When Jesus and His apostles arrived in His hometown of Nazareth and began preaching and teaching, He was amazed and saddened by the lack of faith, trust,

and rejection He faced. Everyone's familiarity with Him as just another nice hometown boy made it hard for them to accept His extraordinary brilliance, let alone his divinity. His mission work and healing ministry suffered because they did not believe.

In the same sense, this familiarity and doubt often exist in our families, workplaces, churches, circle of friends, hometowns, and communities. It is good to remember that God sometimes uses

people we know to deliver divinely inspired messages we need to hear.

Our call is to love others by sharing the Gospel of Christ with courage, even when it is difficult. We can rely on the power of the Holy Spirit to enlighten and guide us and to be persistent in sharing God's mercy and Truth through our words and actions. He will help us do this in love and wisdom. Some will listen, and others will reject, but we are responsible for offering the Lord's peace, joy, and

hope to all. Be not afraid.

### Reflect & Discuss:

- † How has God spoken to you in the ordinary circumstances of your life using familiar people to talk to you?
- † How have you been called to share God's message of love, forgiveness, mercy, and hope with others in your midst, and how has it been easy or difficult?
- † Why is sharing the Gospel truth within our families and communities so tricky?
- † When society resists Christ's teachings, how can we continue in compassion and charity?

