Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time (B)

Gospel text (*Mk* 6:1-6): Jesus departed from there and came to his native place, accompanied by his disciples. When the Sabbath came he began to teach in the synagogue, and many who heard him were astonished. They said, “Where did this man get all this? What kind of wisdom has been given him? What mighty deeds are wrought by his hands! Is he not the carpenter, the son of Mary, and the brother of James and Joseph and Judas and Simon? And are not his sisters here with us?” And they took offense at him. Jesus said to them, “A prophet is not without honor except in his native place and among his own kin and in his own house.” So he was not able to perform any mighty deed there, apart from curing a few sick people by laying his hands on them. He was amazed at their lack of faith.

“He was amazed at their lack of faith”

Fr. Joaquim PETIT Llimona, L.C.
(Barcelona, Spain)

Today the liturgy helps us discover the sentiments of the Heart of Jesus: “He was amazed at their lack of faith” (Mk 6:6). Without a doubt, the disciples must have been impressed by the lack of faith of the Master's fellow citizens and his reaction. It seemed only natural that things would have occurred differently: They came to the land where he had lived for so many years, they had heard about the works he was doing, and the logical consequence was that they would welcome him with affection and trust, more willing than others to listen to his teachings. However, it was not so, but quite the opposite: “And they took offense at him” (Mk 6:3).

The amazement of Jesus at the attitude of his people shows us a heart that trusts in people, that expects a response and is not indifferent to the lack of it, because it is a heart that gives itself seeking our good. St. Bernard expresses it very well when he writes: “The Son of God came and did such wonders in the world that he uprooted our understanding of all that is mundane, so that we might meditate and never cease to ponder his wonders. He left us infinite horizons for the ease of the intelligence, and an overflowing river of ideas impossible to wade through. Is there anyone capable of understanding why the Supreme Majesty would want to die to give us life, why He would want to serve so that we could reign, live without a place to rest his head so that we can possess the world, and allow himself to be lowered to the most vile and vulgar to exalt us above all else?

One could think of how the lives of the Nazarenes would have changed if they had approached Jesus with

faith. Thus, we must ask him daily as his disciples: “Lord, increase our faith” (Lk 17:5), so that we open ourselves more and more to let His love work in us.

Thoughts on Today's Gospel

- “The Son of God came and did such marvels in the world that He uprooted our mundane understanding of the world, to help us meditate and so that we never cease to ponder the wonderful things He did” (Saint Bernard)

- “Mary was not shocked by her Son: her wonder for him was full of faith, full of love and joy, in seeing him so human and at the same time so divine.” (Benedict XVI)

- “(...) The One whom she conceived as man by the Holy Spirit, who truly became her Son according to the flesh, was none other than the Father's eternal Son (...)” (Catechism Of The Catholic Church, Nº 495)