

Homily for July 9, 2000
Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary
Time Cycle B

By Father Charles Bowes

Ezekiel 2-5
2 Corinthians 12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6

Yes, there's wisdom even in those we've known all our lives.

“Where did he get all this?” the folks in Jesus’ hometown ask.

Today’s gospel, Mark Chapter 6, presents a peculiar trait of human nature. Jesus has achieved fame as a teacher, healer, and prophet and is widely respected and admired. He then comes back to his hometown, to his own people, to his own relatives. Filled with the power of God, he wants to share it with those he grew up with and with whom he is most familiar. He preaches and teaches but to what results? Is he acknowledged, respected and admired by his own? We see he is not. The townsfolk “took offense at him...‘is not this Mary’s son?...Is not this the carpenter?’”

But often, surprisingly, the people who can best help us change for the better are the very people who are closest to us and know us the best. It is foolish to discount their concerns and proposals. The best therapist in the world might be one’s own spouse; the best counselor might be a sibling. The best spiritual advisor we might find could be a coworker at the office.

Some of those closest to us have made our parish retreat and are here today to say a word that might be of help to us – perhaps a prophetic

word. I’ll invite Mrs. Klich, our Pastoral Associate, to bid us listen.

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