

Commentary on the Gospel for Sun, Jul 8th 2012

July 8: 14th SUNDAY of the Ordinary Time.

Today the gospel tells us a confrontation between Jesus and “his people”, those who knew him “closely”, those who knew him as “just one of them”...

“His people” knew him well. They knew his family roots. And perhaps they knew too well what Jesus can do, and what Jesus should be: just to be like one of them. They knew Jesus too well, but maybe not too deeply. Knowing Jesus well hindered them to know him deeply. They were hindered to transcend what their bare eyes can provide. They were not able to see the divine in the human Jesus. They were not able to see the spiritual in the flesh. They were not able to see how God sees.

Sometimes we are tempted to see God “up there”. Sometimes we would rather want God to perform magically miracles. Sometimes we want God do the things for us. Sometimes we forget that God manifests himself in the daily unfolding of our human life. We forget that God is present, and his message is present in every earthly happening. Sometimes we fail to see what is spiritual in what is deeply human.

It is easy for us look for the spectacular, to look for the extraordinary. The gospel today reminds us of the value of transcendence: transcending of what we see, of what we know. But puzzlingly, to transcend is “going deep” of what is bare, simple and ordinary; discovering God in what is bare, simple and ordinary.

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