



4th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Jeremiah 1:4-5, 17-19
 Ps 71:1-6, 15, 17
 1 Cor 12:31 -- 13:13
 Luke 4:21-30

Monday Feb. 1
 2 Sam 15:13-14,
 30, 16:5-13
 Ps 3:2-7
 Luke 4:21-30

Tuesday Feb. 2
Presentation of the Lord
 Malachi 3:1-4
 Ps 24:7-10
 Hebrews 2:14-18
 Luke 2:22-40

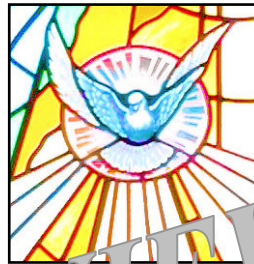
Wednesday Feb. 3
 2 Samuel 24:2, 9-17
 Ps 32:1-2, 5-7
 Mark 6:1-6

Thursday Feb. 4
 1 Kings 2:1-4, 10-12
 1 Chronicles 29:10-12
 Mark 6:7-13

Friday Feb. 5
St. Agatha
 Sirach 47:2-11
 Ps 18:31, 47, 50, 51
 Mark 6:14-29

Saturday Feb. 6
 1 Kings 3:4-13
 Ps 119:9-14
 Mark 6:30-34

Take a close look at the Gospel passage. Jesus has just finished reading the scripture that we heard on the previous Sunday ("The Spirit of the Lord is upon me, he has anointed me to bring good news to the poor," etc.). He tells the people in the synagogue that this scripture is now being fulfilled through him, and they all speak highly of him. But by the end of this scripture, they are furious.



What changed their attitude?

Their awe turned into confusion when they remembered, "Isn't this the son of Joseph?" Unlike those who would meet Jesus for the first time in later chapters of the story, these people had experiences with Jesus the toddler who fell when learning to walk, Jesus the teenager who learned the carpentry trade from his father, Jesus the young man who watched his father die and wept at his funeral.

Their attitude changed when they stopped listening with their spirits and started listening with their preconceived notions. This disconnect from the divine then stirred up their emotions.

Think of how people react when you confuse them by doing or saying something out of character, that is, out of the character that they expect from you. If you're perceived as too young or too old to do what you are

in fact capable of doing, or if your education level doesn't include a formal degree that proves that you know what you do already know, or if you don't tell people what they want to hear, their surprise turns into confusion that triggers an emotional response against you.

We expect them to believe us, and when they don't, our surprise turns into confusion and self-protective anger. But how did Jesus handle it when they treated him this way? He calmly spoke a truth that was inspired by the Holy Spirit. Did we have an emotional reaction? Sure! He was human like us; we were all created by the Father to have emotions. The problem is not in the emotions; the problem occurs when we listen through our emotions instead of our spiritual connection to the Holy Spirit.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. How much time do you spend training your ear to hear the Holy Spirit within you?
2. When life is busy happening around you, do you mostly react to it or are you on some level praying about it?
3. What can you do this week to develop a more automatic connection to the Spirit of God?
4. What are some of the ways you listen to the Holy Spirit?
5. Keeping in mind a surprising challenge that happened to you recently, describe the differences between an emotional reaction and a spiritual action.