



14th Sunday of Ordinary Time

Ezekiel 2:2-5
Psalm 123:1-4
2 Corinth 12:7-10
Mark 6:1-6

Monday July 6

Gen 28:10-22a
Ps 91:1-4, 14-15ab
Matt 9:18-26

Tuesday July 7

Gen 32:23-33
Ps 17:1b-3, 6-8b, 15
Matt 9:32-38

Wednesday July 8

Gen 41:55-57;
42:5-7a,17-24a
Ps 33:2-3,10-11,18-19
Matt 10:1-7

Thursday July 9

St. Augustine Zhao Rong and his companions

Gen 44:18-21,
23b-29; 45:1-5
Ps 105:(5a)16-21
Matt 10:7-15

Friday July 10

Gen 46:1-7, 28-30
Ps 37:3-4,18-19,
27-28,39-40
Matt 10:16-23

Saturday July 11

St. Benedict

Gen 49:29-32;50:15-26a
Ps 105:1-4, 6-7
Matt 10:24-33

In the Gospel reading, we see the painful truth of what happens when we share our faith with those who knew us before we became so strong in our faith.

Like Jesus, we are rejected, misunderstood, and disbelieved by people who don't understand why we change. They feel threatened by our example; they don't want to consider their own need to change. We sound like fanatics to them, and they use this as an excuse to remain uninfluenced by our testimony.

Jesus changed after he quit living an ordinary life in an ordinary town with an ordinary job to begin a ministry that would instigate persecution, and he invited everyone else to follow his example. How crazy does that sound?

Making matters worse, he was now spending all of his time trying to change the

status quo of everyone's normal life and their normal ways of relating to others and their normal attitudes about religion — even affecting the status quo of those who did not want to follow him and become like him.

People don't like to be challenged, especially when it means giving up what's familiar and comfortable.

However, this is not a reason for us to keep silent. We have been called by Christ to share the good news about him. We must make it known that conversion is important, or else we are sinning against him and against those who need to learn more about him.

We fulfill this mission by sharing our personal conversion stories and our spiritual insights, as long as we do this as an invitation rather than by demanding that others change.

If you're being rejected because of this, remember that Jesus understands how you feel. Let the sting of their rejection be replaced by an awareness that God is very pleased with you.

Reflect & Discuss:

1. In what ways has Jesus changed your life?
2. Who are the people that misunderstand these changes?
3. Now list those who do understand you: What can you do to enjoy their company more often?
4. When have you been rejected because of your spiritual growth? What have you learned about how to lovingly respond to their objections?
5. Have you ever walked away like Jesus did when he left his hometown?



PREVIEW