

FOURTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

1. Jeremiah is a very reluctant prophet
 - a. God is asking him to challenge the king and the priests of his time
 - b. They are trying to make alliances with some powerful countries to protect themselves from others
 - c. God sends Jeremiah to warn his people they are making a mistake
 - d. They will not find security in these alliances they need to be putting their trust in God
 - e. Can see why he might not be very popular
 - f. Imagine someone coming to us, you are making a big mistake
 - g. Not trusting God, you are looking for security in the wrong places
 - i. Money, weapons, powerful friends
 - h. Jeremiah very smart, knew they would accuse him of being self-righteous, a traitor to his own people
 - i. He would rather have been a simple citizen
2. God speaks to him, I chose you before you were born, I appointed you as prophet to the nations
 - a. God tells him, I will be with you, I will make you like a fortress to withstand their disapproval
 - b. Even though rejected in his time, later he was recognized as one of the great prophets of Israel
 - c. Jesus is example of what can happen to a prophet in hometown
3. Just finished saying He is one foretold by Isaiah to be the chosen one, Messiah
 - a. At first impressed with claim to be Messiah
 - b. Immediately though doubts arise, we know Him, He is one of us
 - c. He knows they expect Him to work wonders like he did in neighboring town of Capernaum
 - d. Jesus insists not simply wonderworker; He is not sent to be a showman
4. called to bring people into relationship with Father
 - a. Objection seems to be in attitude, native son he owes them miracles
 - b. Jesus tells them sometimes the wonders of prophets reserved for outsiders
 - c. Time of Elijah many widows, only to foreigner he choose to live and provide food for three years
 - d. Time of Elisha many lepers in Israel, only outsider Naaman the Syrian healed
 - e. Makes people so angry ready to throw him off cliff
5. Christians are not immune from similar attitudes
 - a. Think of ourselves as an exclusive club for whom gift of God's love reserved
 - i. Temptation to think of baptism as an entitlement
 - ii. Willingness to have water poured on heads, somehow God owes us
 - iii. think God in on our side and only our ways are permissible
6. Having the title of Christian is not something we can ever deserve, rather it is an obligation
 - a. God has high expectations of us, Says to each one of us
 - b. I expect you to love Me with your whole heart, soul, and strength
 - c. I expect you to love your neighbor as yourself
 - d. Reason He invites us to this sacred meal, week after week, is because we are sinners
 - e. We continually fail to live up to our baptismal vows, need to hear God speak to us
 - f. He tells us I love you as you are but you can do much more
7. When God offers us forgiveness, He is not being simply a nice guy. to take advantage of
 - a. He is more like a coach, who says I know you have fallen
 - b. But you can get up and go again; He even gives us the strength to go out into the world again
 - c. With God's help we can do anything
8. This is not always what we want to hear
 - a. If life is hopeless, then I do not have to even think about changing anything
 - b. But If I can start over, if can make a difference, that give me a new responsibility
 - c. I have to make a choice, am I going to cooperate with God or go my own way