

# BRINGING HOME THE GOSPEL

July 7, 2024 • 14th Sunday in Ordinary Time • Mark 6:1-6

## A Prophet—Except In Your Own Home

*Jesus returns home to preach in the synagogue in which he grew up. The people were astonished at his wisdom. Word had already reached them concerning all of the miracles he had accomplished. But rather than rejoicing in his homecoming, they took offense.*

**T**his Gospel speaks to just about every parent of an adolescent who ever lived. In Jesus' words, "Prophets are not without honor, except...among their own kin, and in their own house" (Mark 6:4). Like Jesus we too experience the hurt and frustration of not being heard by the people closest to us—the very people we most want to influence.

At one point my husband and I had four teenagers living in our house at the same time. I am sure we gave just about every speech given to an adolescent during that time frame. They were always very respectful, they seemed to listen, but sometimes you could just tell by their stance or the look on their face that our words of wisdom were being heavily filtered.

I remember sitting with one of our sons following a family wedding when he and his cousins had absconded with a six-pack of beer. I can still hear this handsome young man (who stood about five-foot-one at the time) say to his father and me, "I know most fourteen-year-olds aren't old enough to drink beer, but I'm a lot more mature."

Years later, I found a picture from that wedding showing my son and his cousins standing with the groom. I asked my even more handsome, six-foot son if he remembered the wedding and the incident

with the beer. He just shook his head and said, "Oh yeah, I was pretty dumb back then."

So have faith. More often than not that know-it-all teen with the rolling eyes will usually come around to appreciate your wisdom. I wonder if the same thing happened to the folks in Jesus' hometown. For their sake, I hope so.

### FAMILY RESPONSE

Practice active listening. Ask one person in the family to talk about a problem they are having at home, school or work with which they would like help. Everyone else is to listen without interrupting. They may then ask questions to clarify what the person has said. When they are done listening, they can make suggestions. The person who was speaking tells each person how well he or she listened by giving him or her a grade of one to five. Five means you are a really good listener.

### PERSONAL RESPONSE

Are you a good listener? What can you do to become better at this important skill? What do you want to remember from last week?